Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ

5

藤島康介

KOSUKE FUJISHIMA

Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 5

STORY AND ART BY
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DARK HORSE MANGA™

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CHAPTER 31

Valentine Capriccio

KLIK

KLIK

KLIK

WELL, IF THE BABES DON'T GIVE YOU ANY CHOCOLATE... IT MEANS YOU'RE A REAL... *LOSER!*

WHAT DOES VALENTINE'S DAY MEAN TO *YOU?*

KLIK

DUHH... GEE, T'ANKS, BOOPIE!

MAYU XMA?

DUHH... BE MY VALEN-TINE, GARK-SON!

...TO *YOU!!*

DIRECTLY FROM MY HEART...

HMM... THIS MAY PROVE *USEFUL!*

VALEN-TINE'S DAY, EH?

GIRLS MAKE CHOCOLATE FOR BOYS ON VALENTINE'S DAY?!

WHAT?

GOOD... HE'S BUSY!

HOO BOY...

THERE! *THIS* SHOULD HELP KEEP MARA OUT OF OUR HAIR...

tunk

▲*VERY* LUCKY FROG STATUE

...HE LOSES FACE AS A *MAN!*

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT IF A GUY DOESN'T GET ANY...

HEY, IT'S ALL OVER THE TV!

ALLOWING FOR A LITTLE EXAGGERATION...

I NEVER HEARD ABOUT THAT BEFORE...

GEE, YOU'RE RIGHT!

BEG LIKE A DOG, AND *PERHAPS!*

squirm

Travel

PLEASE, MISTRESS... CHOCOLATE!!

LOOK!

I heard it all, I did, I did!

flap flap

Lady Mara will be SO pleased!

BUT HONESTLY, I NEVER EVEN DREAMED THAT SUCH A CUSTOM EXISTED...

OH, DEAR... IN MY IGNORANCE, I HAVE CAUSED KEIICHI GREAT PAIN.

RUMBLE RUMBLE

THIS MAY BE GOING TOO FAR...

RIGHT, THEN!! I MUST MAKE HIM ENOUGH CHOCOLATE TO COVER *LAST* YEAR'S QUOTA, TOO!

cackle!

VREEEE

AND SO...

KEIICHI'S TRYING TO KEEP ME AWAY WITH CHARMS, BUT SORRY, PAL...

...I NEVER FALL FOR THE SAME TRICK TWICE.

CHOCO-LATE... *EH?*

OH, *HO!*

MARA DOWNLOADS THE SPY FOOTAGE VIA THE TAIL.

...MY DEAR *BOOSTER-DEMON!!*

BLRBB

...YOU'LL GET THE CHANCE TO PROVE YOURSELF SOONER THAN *EXPECTED*...

BLRBB BLBBLE BLUP

BLRBB BLBBLE BLUPP

...WILL BE ENOUGH TO ENSLAVE YOUR *WHINY LITTLE HEART*, KEIICHI!

JUST A LITTLE SPOONFUL OF MY PRECIOUS LOVE POTION...

I POUR MY HEART INTO YOU... O MELTED CHOCO-LATE...

OOPS...

slip

BUT LOVE IS TRICKY.

urk

eep

ack

WHEW! CAUGHT IT.

um...

SHLOOOSH

...OKAY...

...yeah.

OKAY... GOTTA GET HER OUT OF THE ROOM FOR A SEC... WHAT SHOULD I DO... HMM...

AHH ...!

AH!

AH!

COMING, DEAR!!

KEIICHI ...?

BELL-*DAN*-DY!

(URD'S *EXTRA*-WHINY IMITATION)

HEH-HEH-*HEH!*

THIS WILL DO THE TRICK!

KEI-ICHI ...?

Mistress! Belldandy has emerged from the house!

HO-HO-*HO!*

IT'S GONNA BE ONE *HOT* VALEN-TINE'S DAY FOR *THOSE* TWO!

VERY WELL... NOW'S MY CHANCE !!

MY CHOCOLATE WILL REVERSE KEIICHI'S *PLUS* (i.e., *GOOD*) FACTOR TO *MINUS* (i.e., *EVIL*), TURNING HIM FROM A WHINY LITTLE CUR...

I WANT YOU TO PULL A LITTLE SWITCH FOR ME.

Sure ding, Bowth!

LISTEN UP!

Scuttle

THAT WAS QUICK! DID YOU ALREADY MAKE THE SWITCH?

...INTO A *VICIOUS LITTLE BRUTE!*

IDIOT!

...What does "switch" mean, Bowth?

Scuttle Scuttle

...WITH SOME-THING ELSE THAT LOOKS EXACTLY THE *SAME!*

WHEN I SAY "SWITCH," IT MEANS YOU *REPLACE* IT...

URD...

OH! NEVER MIND, THEN!

NO... I DIDN'T CALL YOU...

HUH?

tunk

URD!!

WHY DID YOU MIMIC KEIICHI'S VOICE? WHAT ARE YOU UP TO *THIS* TIME?!

I DENY IT!

AND WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW.

I'LL PUT EVERY-THING BACK THE WAY IT WAS... *HONEST.*

NOW *RETURN* THE CHOCOLATE VALENTINE I MADE!

OKAY, *OKAY*... GEEZ.

"YOK-KYUN CORNER!"

DO YOK-KYUN!

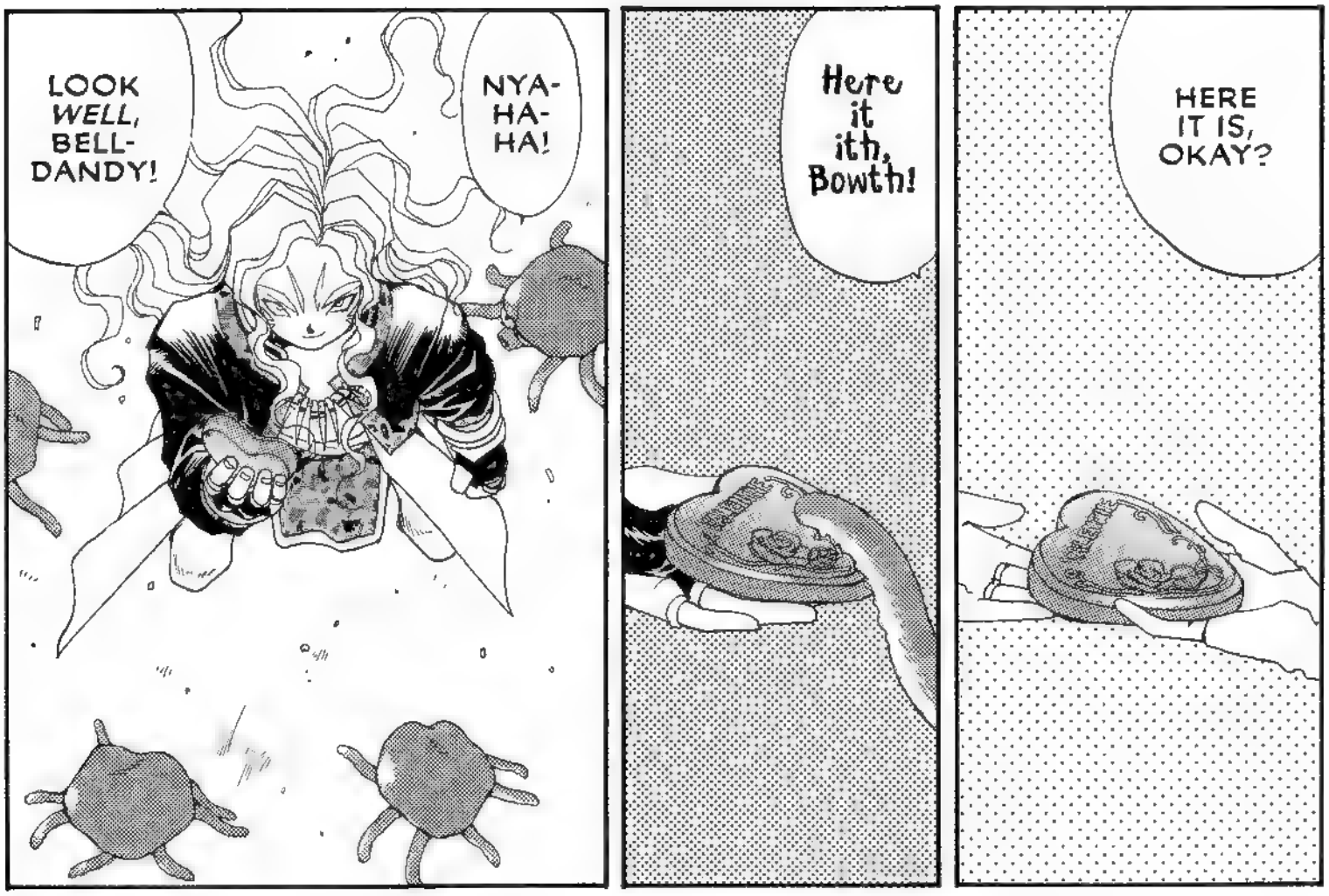
"IT'S GOING TO BE THE *DEATH PENALTY* FOR THIS ONE!"

DO ŌOKA ECHIZEN!

"BELL-*DAN*-DY!"

oops

DO KEIICHI!

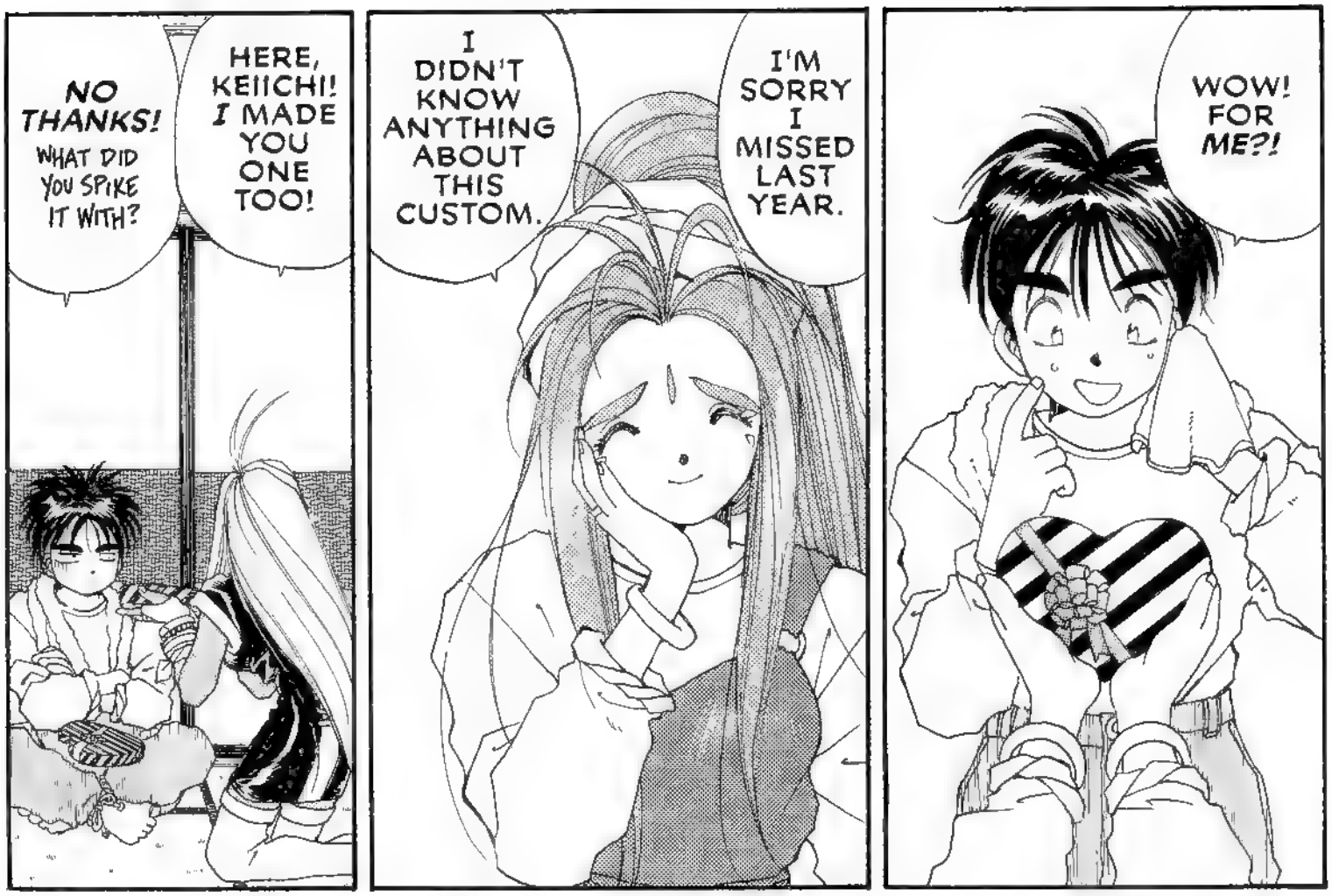

LOOK *WELL*, BELL-DANDY!
NYA-HA-HA!
Here it ith, Bowth!
HERE IT IS, OKAY?
...YOUR BELOVED KEIICHI WILL TRANSFORM INTO A *MONSTER!!*
FOR BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES...
SKRAK
MUNCH
GULP
Hey, ev'ry-buddy! choco-late!

AND NOW-- STAND BY... *BA-BA-BOOSTERS !!*

Yeth, Bowth!

THAT MEANS STOP *EATING.* IDIOTS!

THE MARA PYRAMID OF POWER!!


NO THANKS!
WHAT DID YOU SPIKE IT WITH?
HERE, KEIICHI! I MADE YOU ONE TOO!
I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS CUSTOM.
I'M SORRY I MISSED LAST YEAR.
WOW! FOR ME?!
...I'M GOING TO DIG RIGHT IN!!
VALENTINE
BUT AS FOR BELL-DANDY'S...
DAMMIT... I ALMOST HAD HIM.
gwanch
NYA-HA-HA-HA-HA!!
mmm... WHOB DAT ?!

SO... HOW'D MY GIFT OF LOVE TASTE, KEIICHI ?!

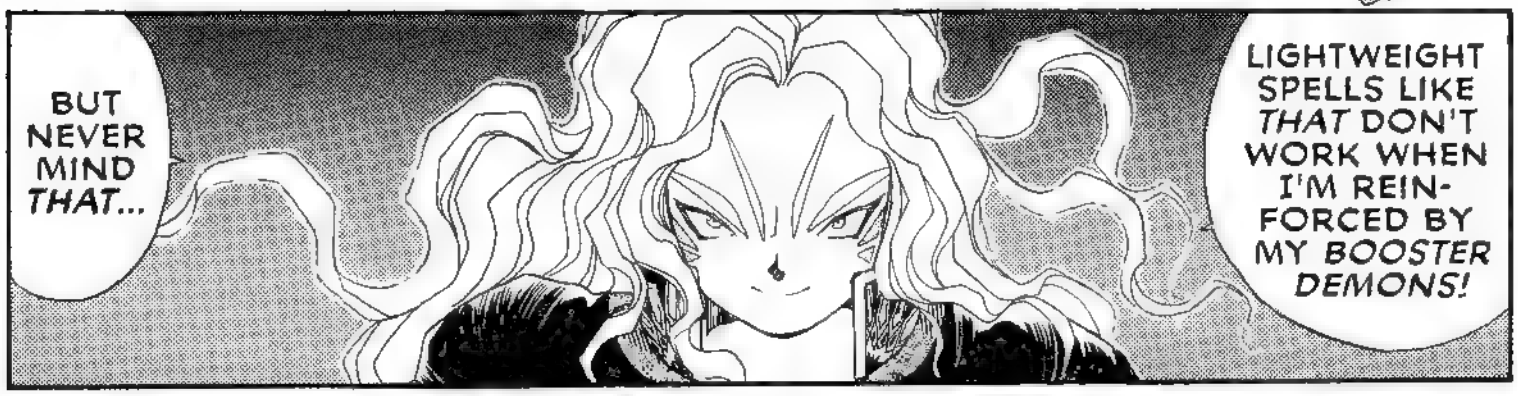
B-BUT *HOW?!* I SURROUNDED THE HOUSE WITH *GOOD-LUCK CHARMS!*

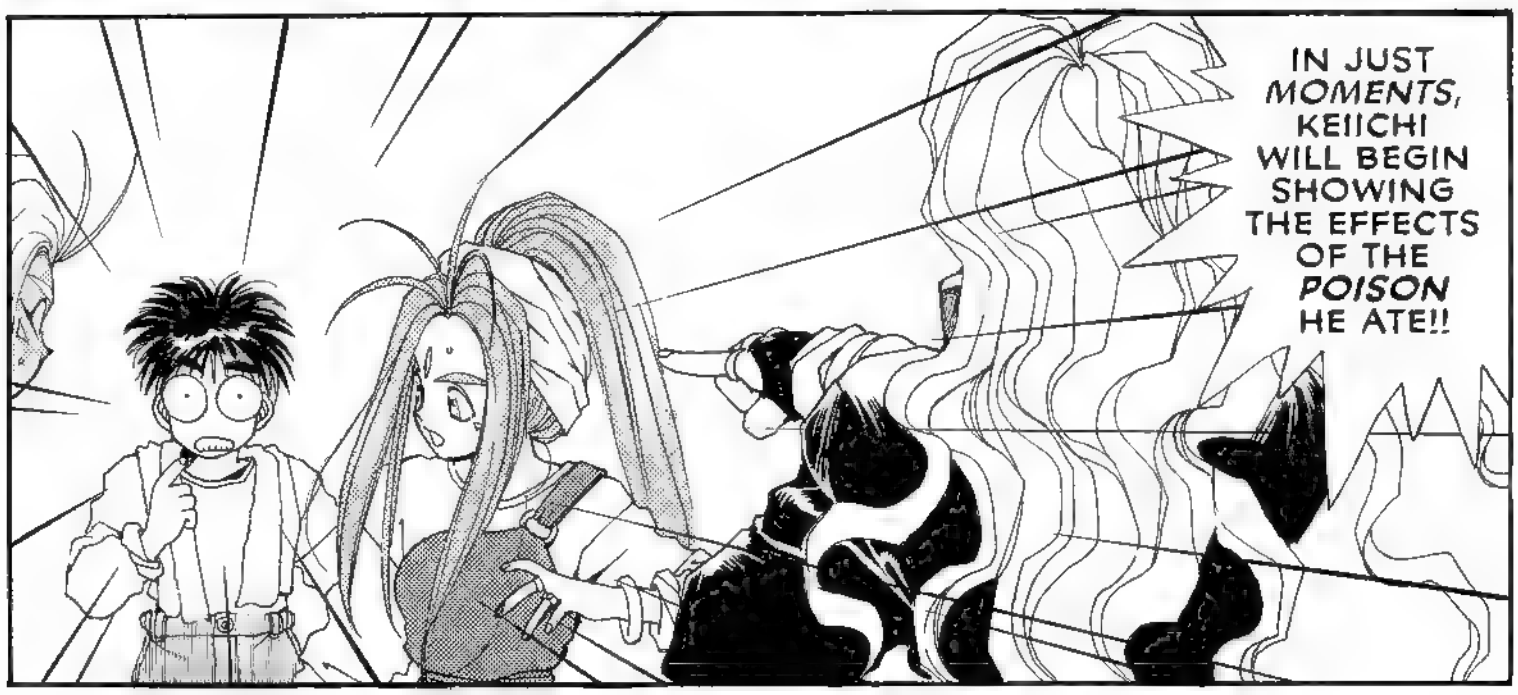
Grow in My Hand, O Force of Light...

I, Belldandy, Goddess First Class Command Thee!!

GET BACK, KEIICHI !!

SORRY, KID!
!!
KOOM
And Extinguish this Darkness Visible!


BUT NEVER MIND *THAT*...
LIGHTWEIGHT SPELLS LIKE *THAT* DON'T WORK WHEN I'M REIN-FORCED BY MY *BOOSTER DEMONS!*


IN JUST *MOMENTS*, KEIICHI WILL BEGIN SHOWING THE EFFECTS OF THE ***POISON*** HE ATE!!

DISGUST-ING... AND *FUTILE!*

KEIICHI! QUICK! VOMIT! RIGHT *NOW!*

NO MATTER *HOW* MUCH YOU PUKE... YOU'LL BE *BEYOND HELP!!*

VALENTINE

...TAKES EFFECT *IMMEDI-ATELY !!*

MY *FACTOR-REVERSING CHOCO-LATE...*

...BUT YOU KNOW... I DON'T FEEL POISONED AT ALL.

UM... HEY... I'M NOT SAYING THIS IS A *BAD* IDEA...

...BUT TO *DRAW THE POISON FROM HIM...*

THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE...

twimp

!!

...ACEPHALIC CEPHALA-PODS! WHAT DID YOU--

HMM... THIS IS ODD. SHE SAID IT TOOK EFFECT IMMEDI-ATELY...

UH, YEAH... I THINK SO...

YOU REALLY FEEL NORMAL?

OOOORRRRGGGGGG

WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER ?!

AND THE HUGE *OVERDOSE* OF *LOVE POTION* IN URD'S CHOCOLATE HAS *SCRAMBLED* THE BOOSTER DEMON'S PROGRAM-MING.

ACTUALLY, THE CHOCOLATE THE BOOSTERS ATE EARLIER WAS *URD'S.*

GULP

Kyaaaaaa!

SO NOW, THE ONLY INSTRUC-TION THEY CAN RECALL IS *"GET THE CHOCO-LATE"...*

GET *OFF* OF ME!!

WHAT TH--?!

urggg

HEY!! WATCH THOSE *TENTACLES,* YOU LITTLE BLOBS!!

PLOP

SPLAT

WHAM

OR YOU'LL GET *THIS!!*

WHY... WHY YOU--!!

!!

FWAP

yuuummmmmm

munch

glorp

um... WHAT ARE THEY *DOING ...?*

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TRIED TO POISON KEIICHI!!

WHAT ARE YOU *TALK-ING* ABOUT ?!

YOU TRIED THE SAME THING *I* DID, DIDN'T YOU... SPIKING THAT CHOCOLATE WITH *POISON!!*

AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A *GODDESS ?!*

...PREVIOUSLY MADE OF NOTHING BUT "MINUS" FACTORS, THEY CONVERTED TO ALL "PLUS"...!

THE BOOSTERS UNDERWENT A STARTLING TRANS-FORMATION...

THEY ATE MY FACTOR-REVERSING CHOCO-LATE!!

NOW I GET IT!

HOOK!

GACK!

OORK!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

huh?

...THEY NOW BECAME TENTACLED AGENTS OF PURITY AND RIGHTEOUS-NESS!

WHICH MEANT THAT...

Ah! My soul feels... CLEANSED!

...See how she shines!!

Ooh, look...

...To think we wished EVIL upon such a DIVINE BEING!!

SHAME!

HEY.

IDIOTS.

DE-STROY THE DEMON !!

DE-STROY HER!!

There is the monster who created us for wicked ends--

Be-hold !!

--BEHOLD THE DEMON !!

YOU'RE *FIRED* !!

WHEEEEEE

OW.

THWMP

KNOW THE *FULL POWER* OF GOOD, MARA!!

NO! THE SHAME IS ON THE ONE WHO SEEKS TO HARM HER OWN POOR *CREATIONS* !!

HAW! HAW! THINK *THAT'LL* WORK?!

shing!

shing!

!!

EVEN *WITHOUT* MY FLUNK-IES...

...YOUR ENERGY-BALL IS NOT...

FRASSSH!!

THAT'S NOT FAIRR RR RR

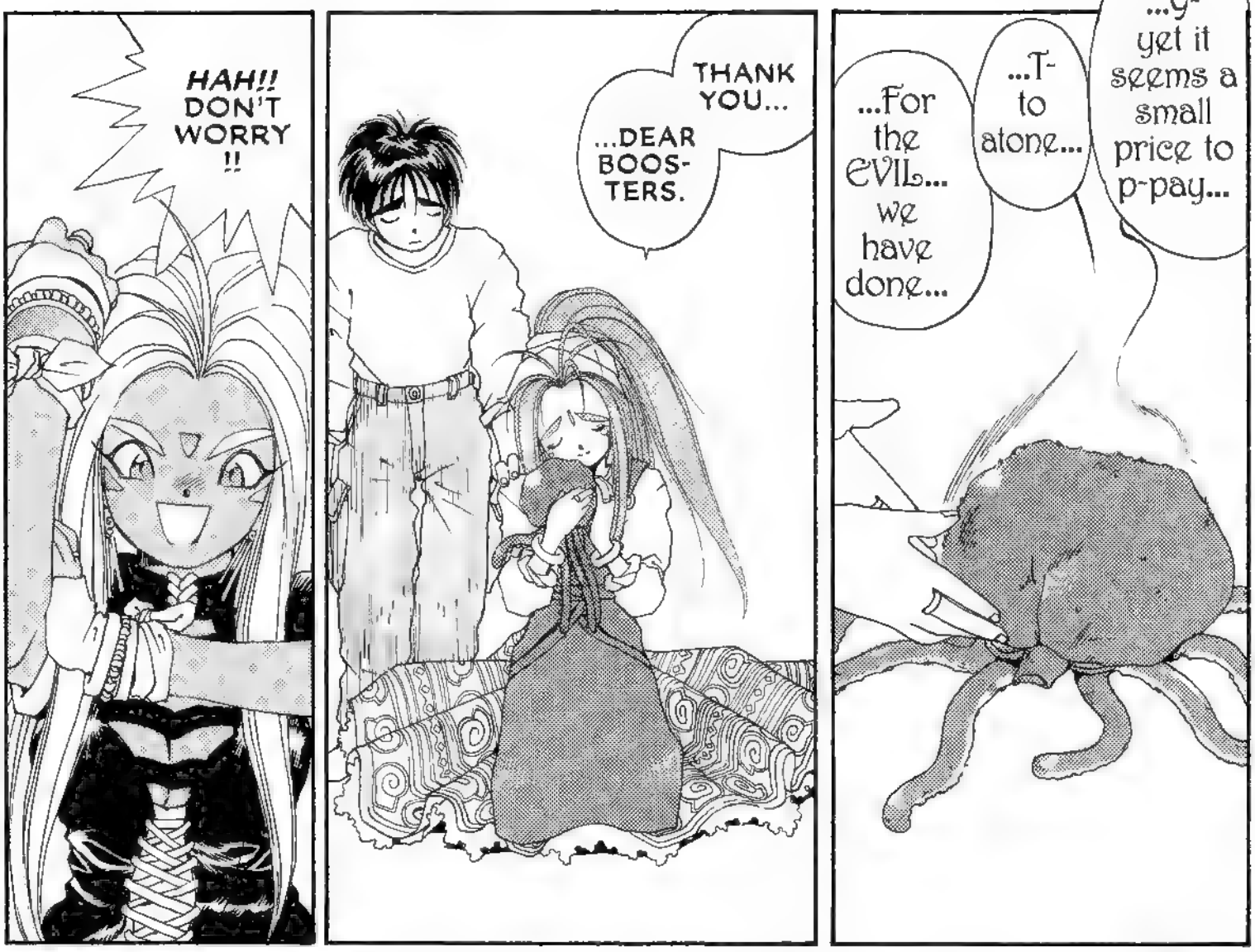
A... A HYPER-STAR BOOST ...?!

WHAM!

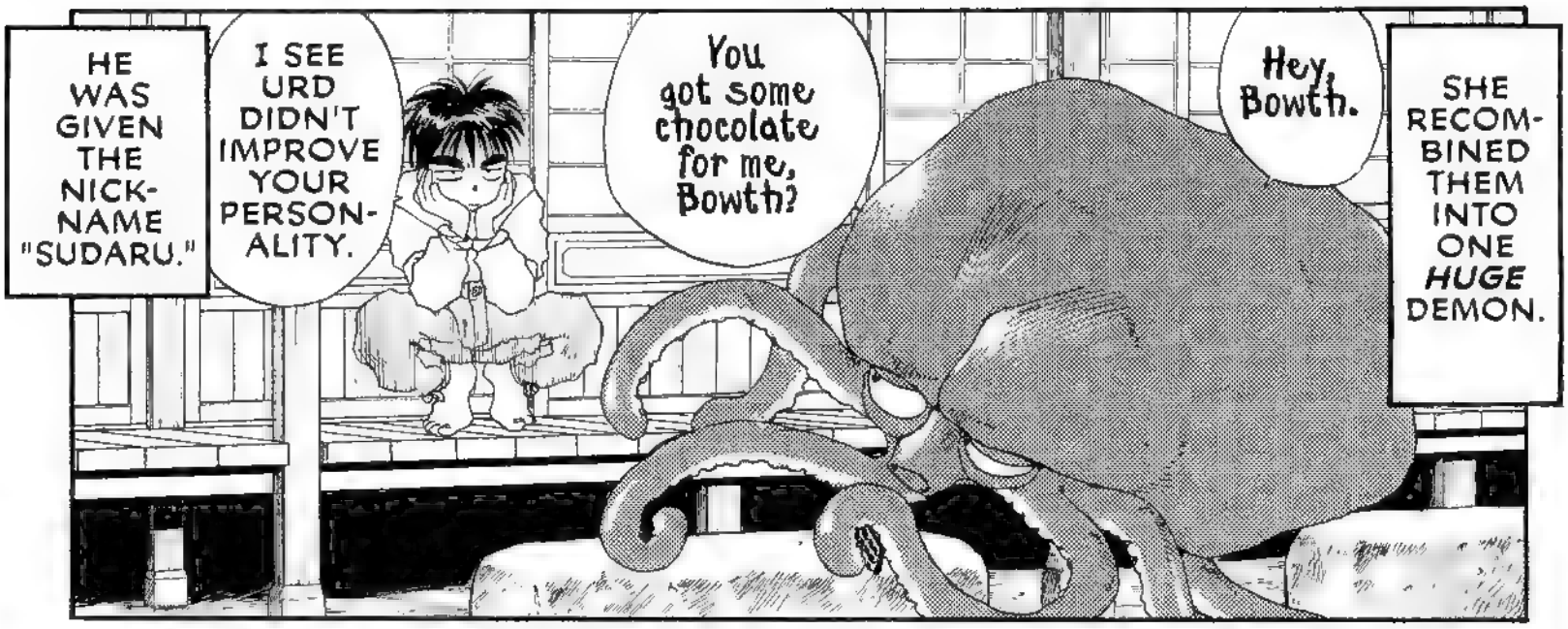
OH, NO!!

W-we boosters have spent the l-last of our life-force...

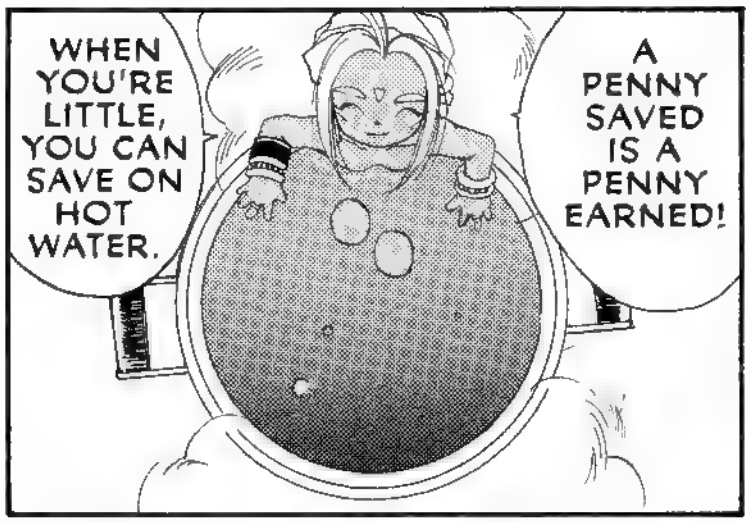
koff koff

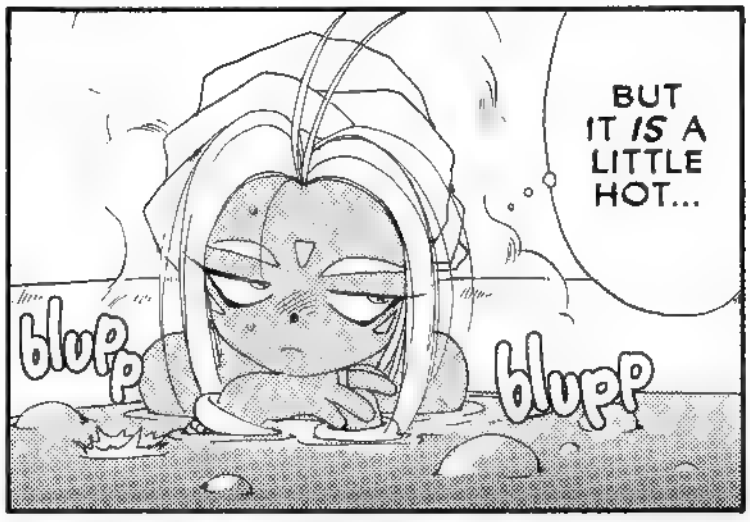

HAH!! DON'T WORRY !!
THANK YOU...
...DEAR BOOS-TERS.
...For the EVIL... we have done...
...T-to atone...
...y-yet it seems a small price to p-pay...

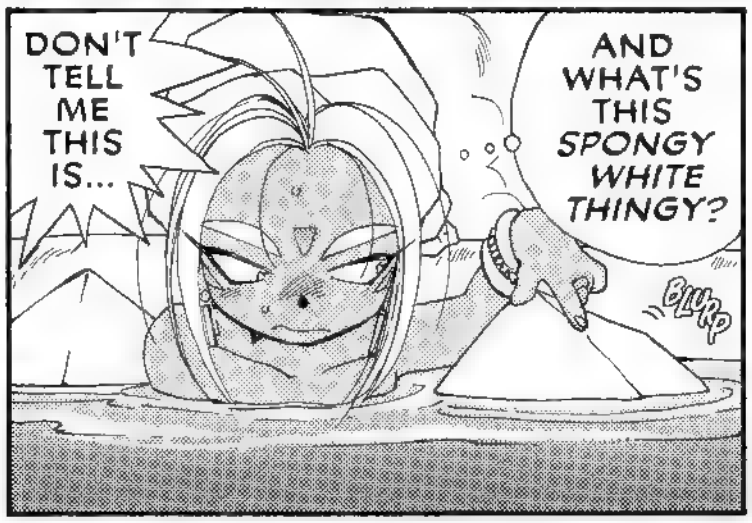
THAT'S WHAT WORRIES US.
I'LL HAVE 'EM BACK ON THEIR PSEUDO-PODS IN NO TIME!
LEAVE IT TO ME.
BUBBLE

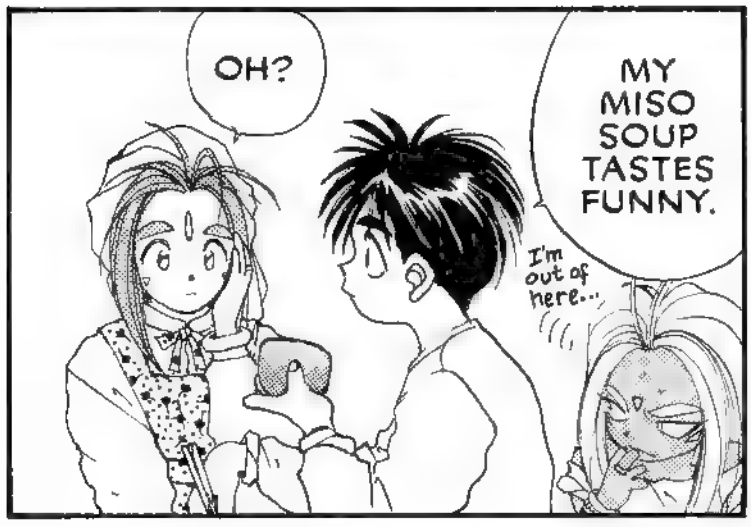

HE WAS GIVEN THE NICK-NAME "SUDARU."
I SEE URD DIDN'T IMPROVE YOUR PERSON-ALITY.
You got some chocolate for me, Bowth?
Hey, Bowth.
SHE RECOM-BINED THEM INTO ONE HUGE DEMON.

CUP O' URD



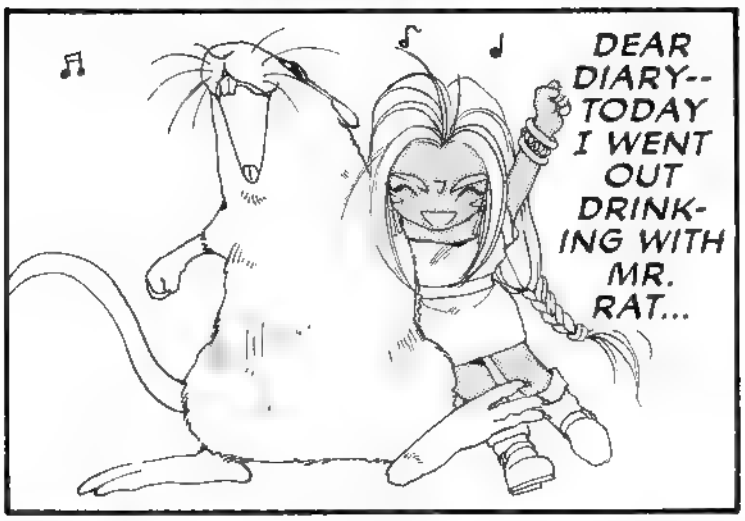


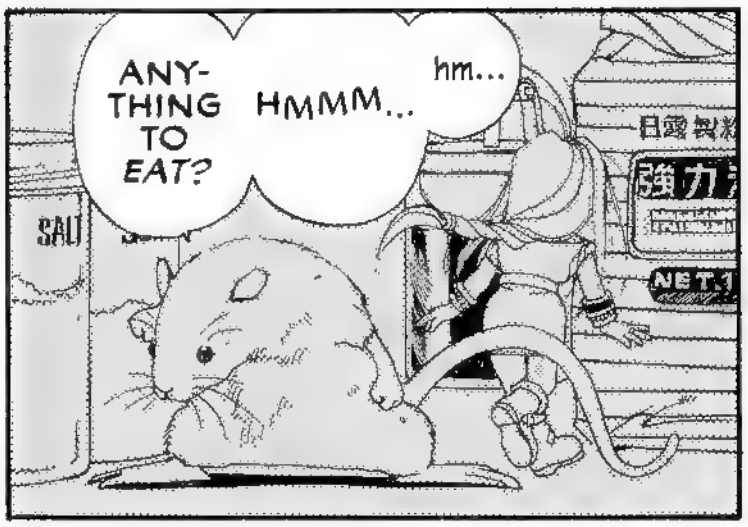




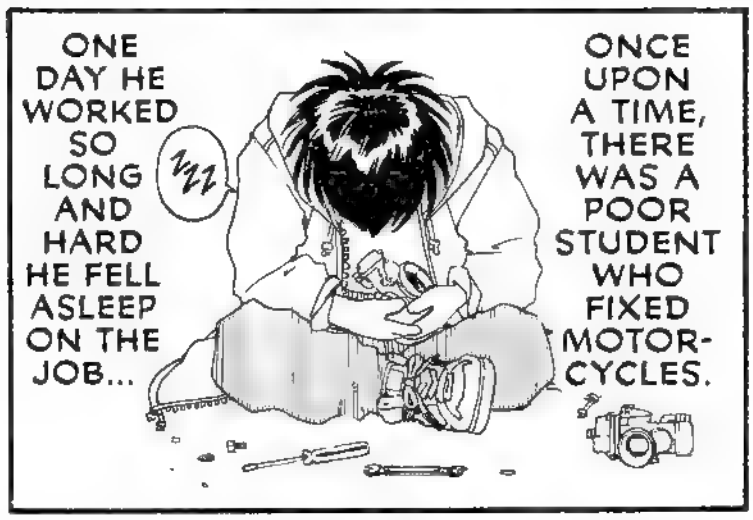
The Adventures of Mini-Urd

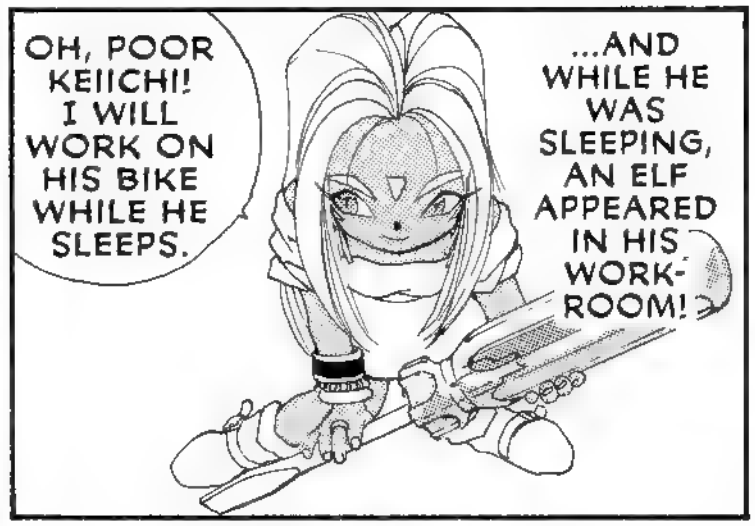
TASTY

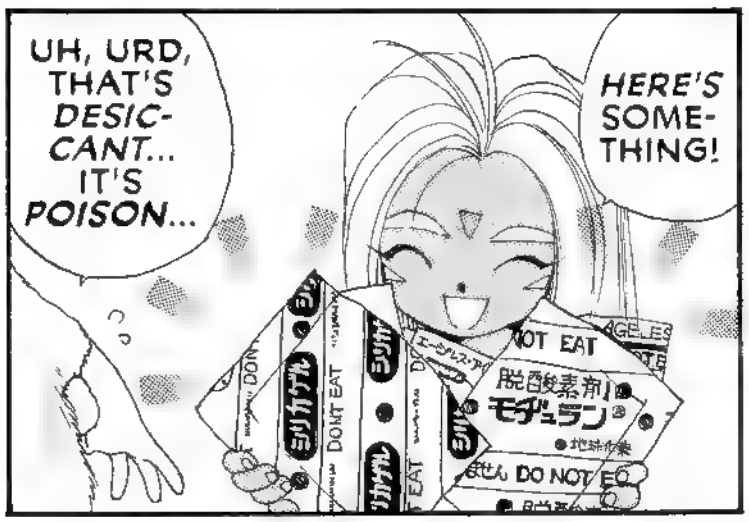


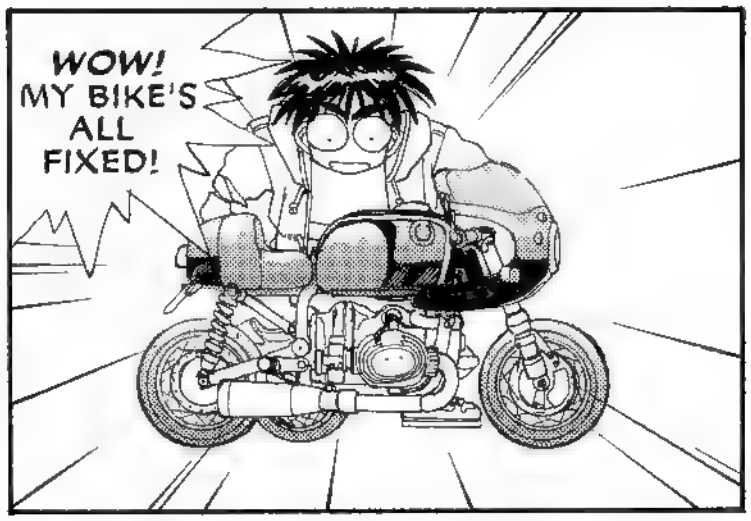


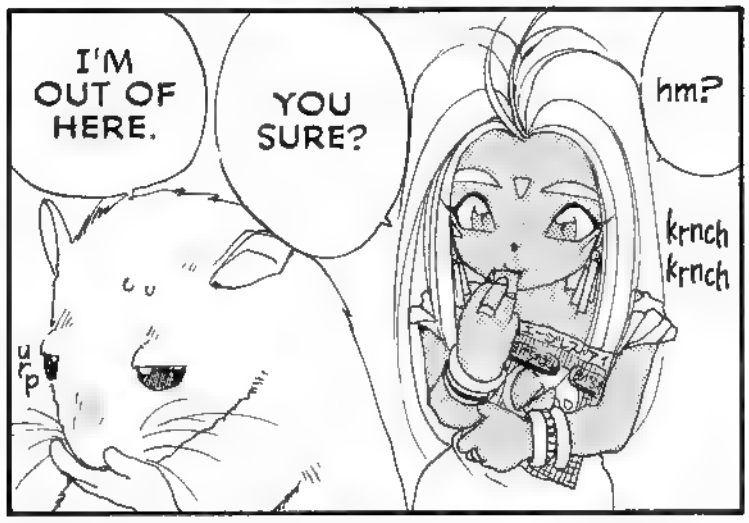
THE BIKE MECHANIC AND THE ELVES

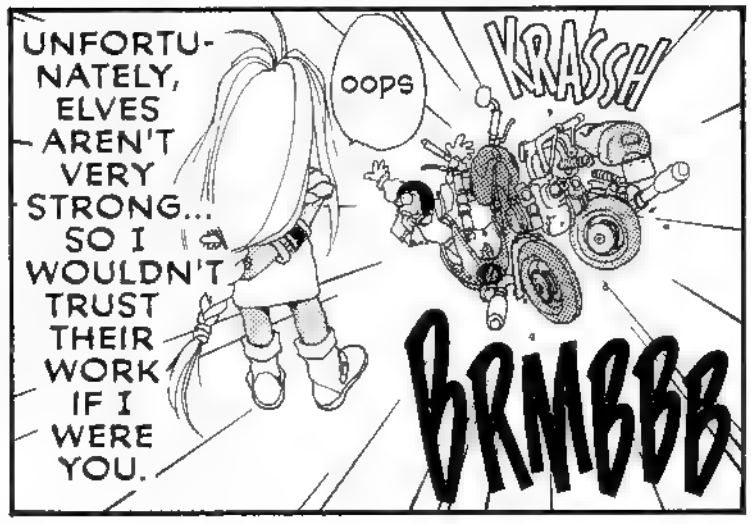






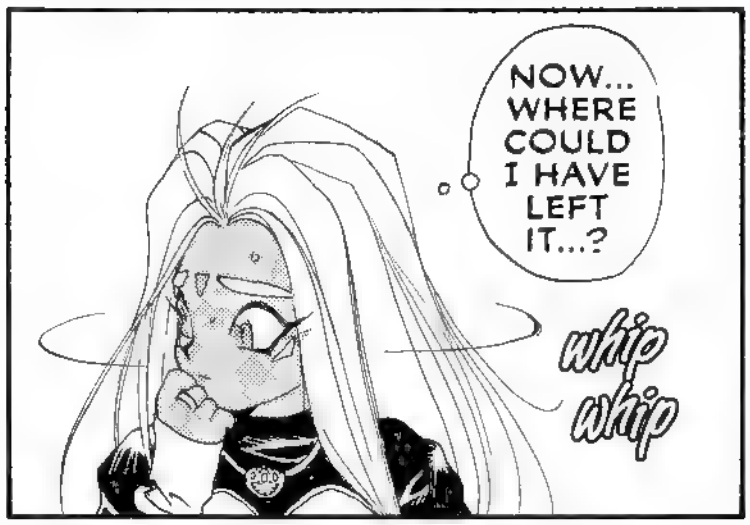


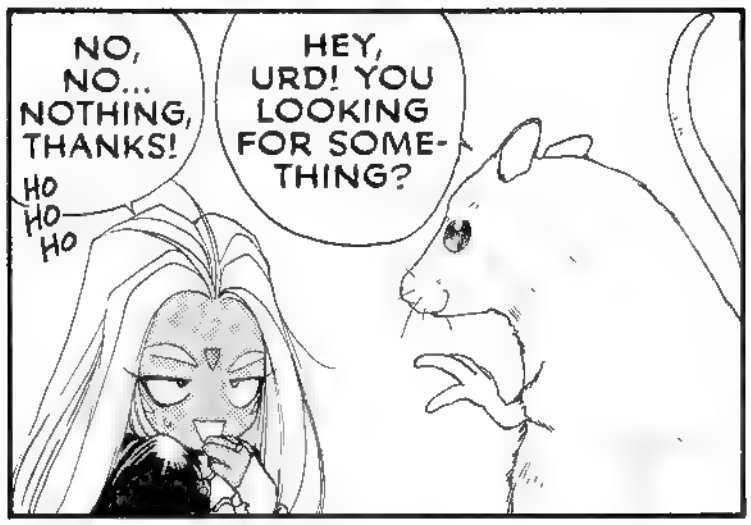


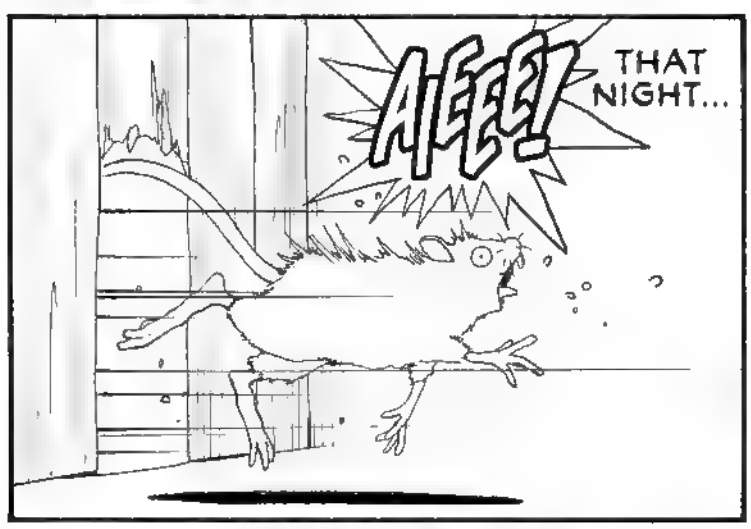


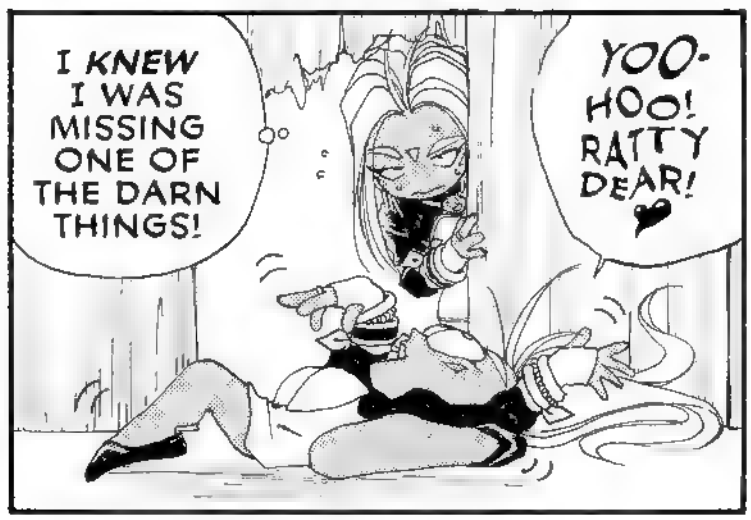
WARNING: ***DON'T DO*** WHAT MINI-URD ***DOES.***

LOST AND FOUND

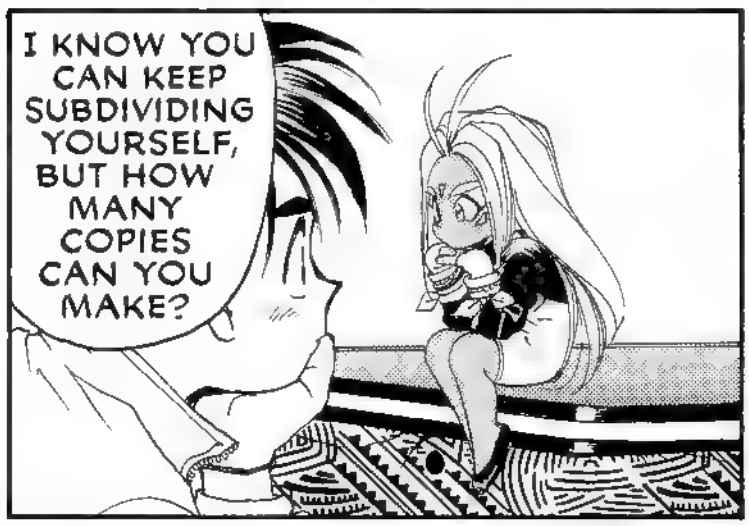


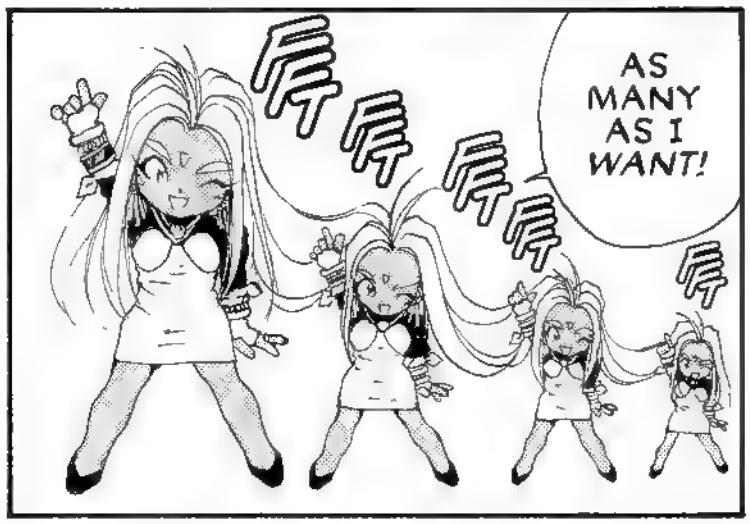


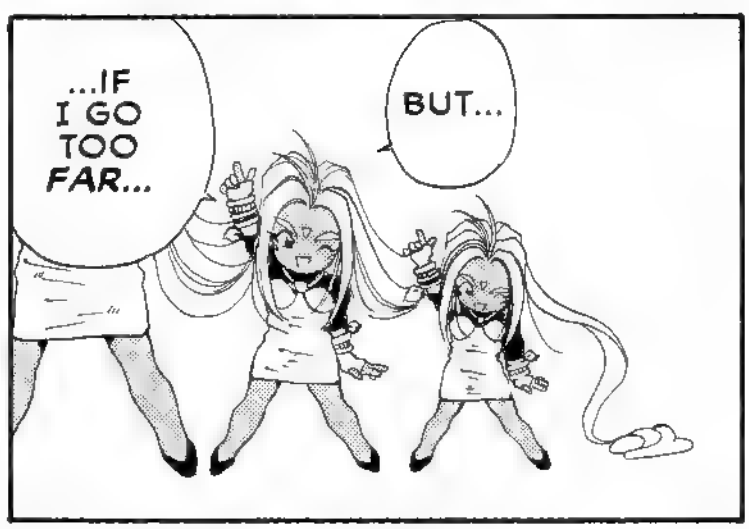


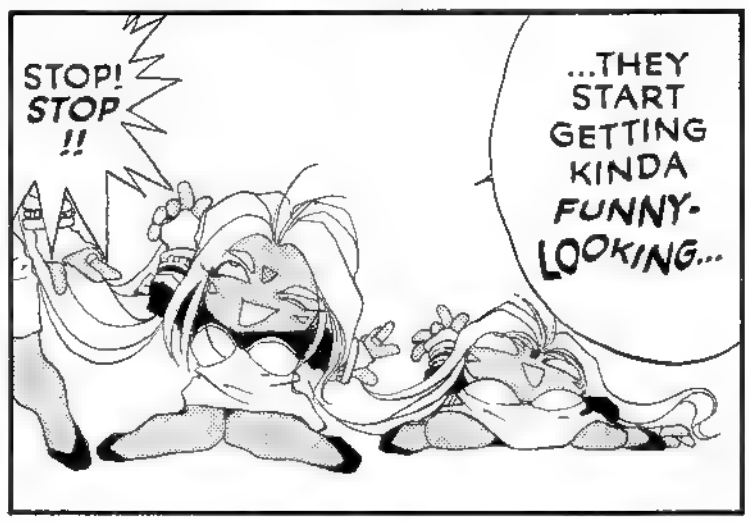


CELL DIVISION









FAMILY

PLEASE... COME IN.

MINI-URD GOES TO VISIT THE RAT FAMILY.

HEL-LO.

MY WIFE AND CHIL-DREN.

MY GRAND-MOTHER, MY GRAND-FATHER, MY AUNT, MY UNCLE...

UNFORTUNATELY, RATS...BREED LIKE RATS.

...MY SECOND COUSINS, AND...

ZZZ

IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS

MINI-URD WAS SOON THE IDOL OF THE KITCHEN CROWD.

WHY, THANK YOU!

I BRING YOU FLOWERS FROM THE GARDEN.

shirpp shirpp

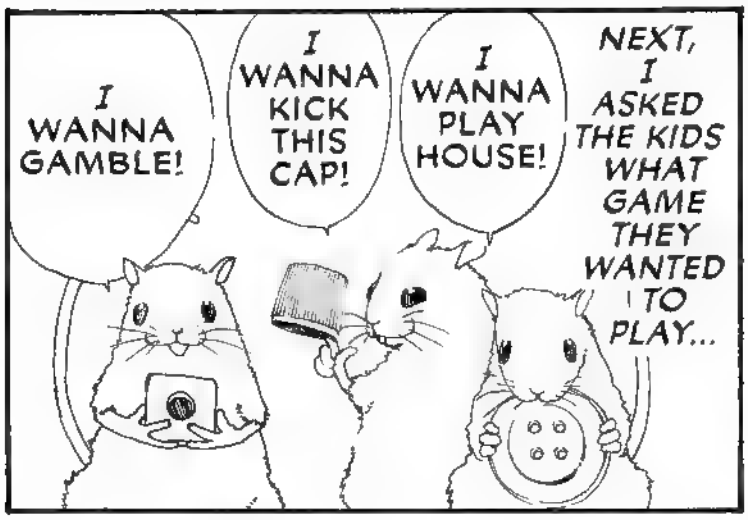
UM, YEAH.

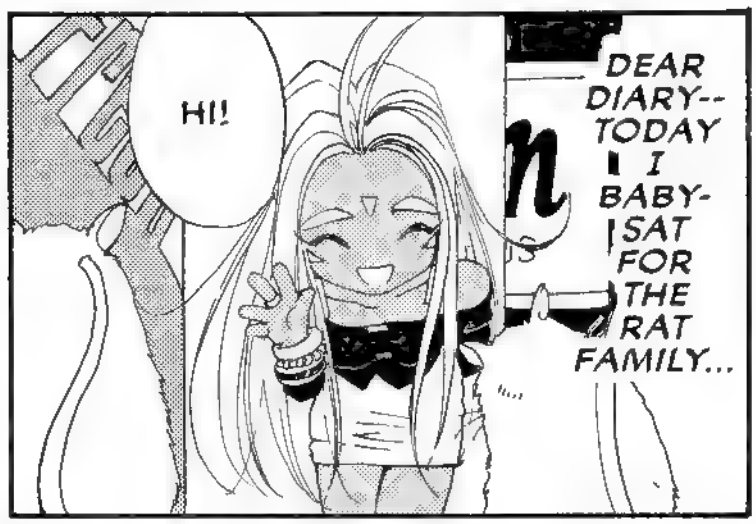
I BRING YOU BONES FROM THE GARBAGE.

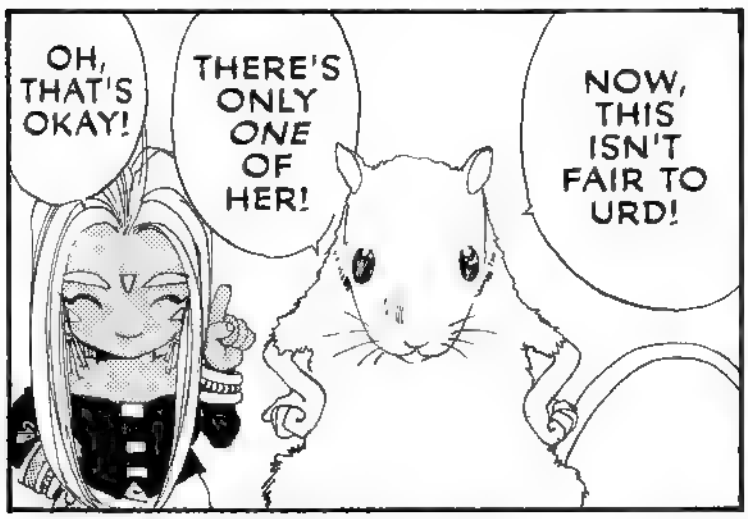
...no.

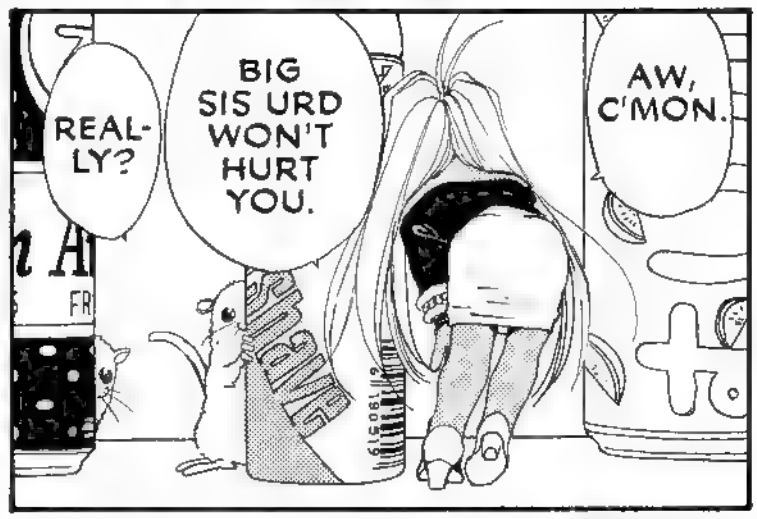
er...

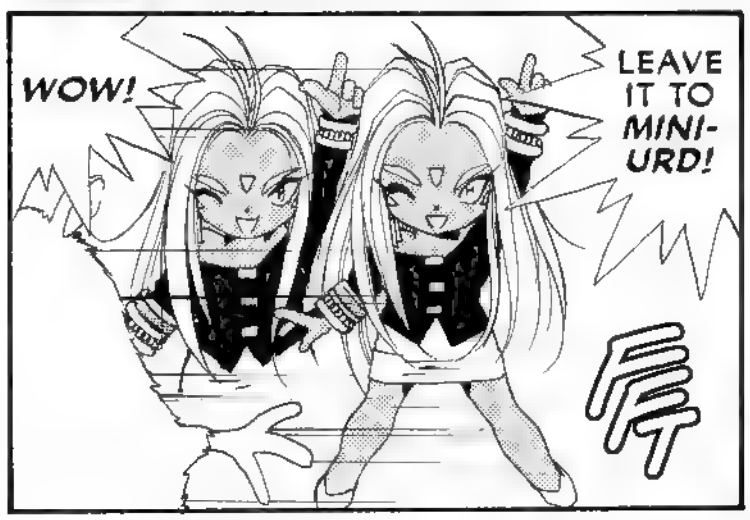
I BRING YOU WORMS FROM THE EARTH.

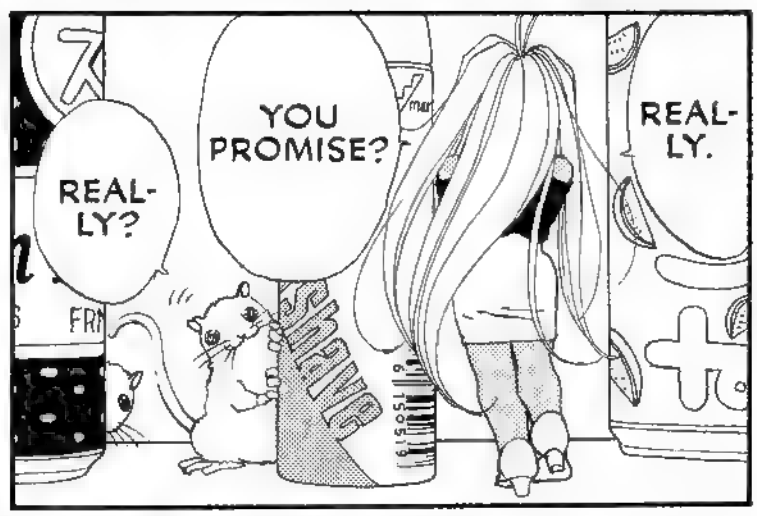

I WANNA GAMBLE!
I WANNA KICK THIS CAP!
I WANNA PLAY HOUSE!
NEXT, I ASKED THE KIDS WHAT GAME THEY WANTED TO PLAY...

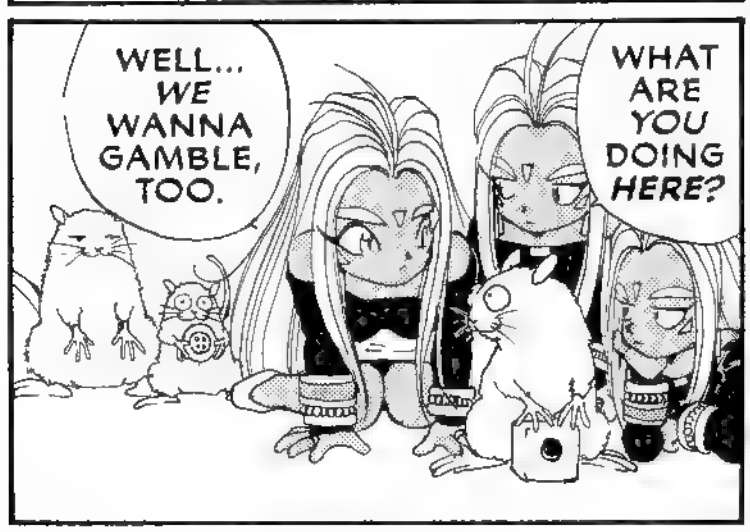

HI!
DEAR DIARY-- TODAY I BABY-SAT FOR THE RAT FAMILY...

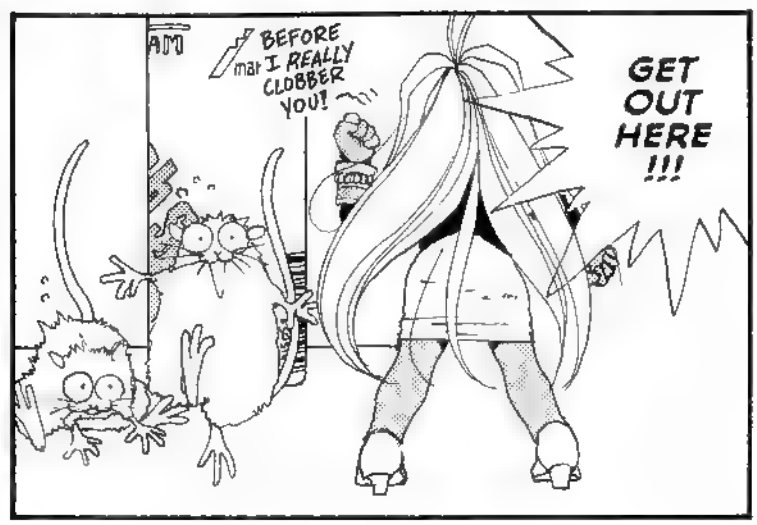

OH, THAT'S OKAY!
THERE'S ONLY ONE OF HER!
NOW, THIS ISN'T FAIR TO URD!


REAL-LY?
BIG SIS URD WON'T HURT YOU.
AW, C'MON.

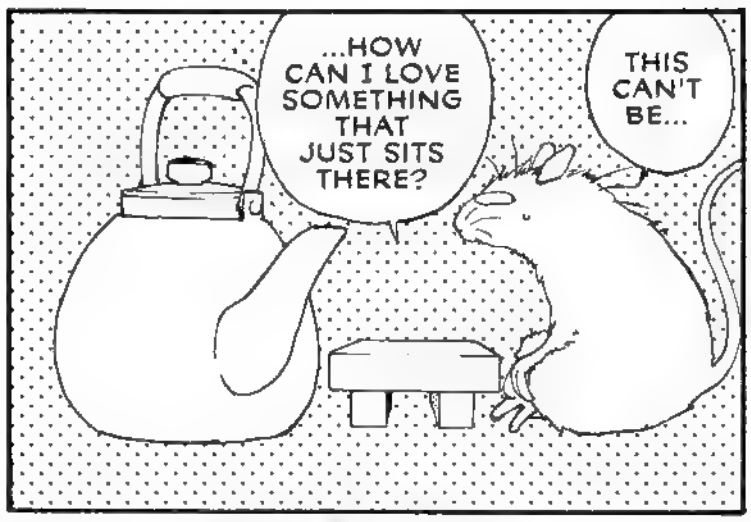

WOW!
LEAVE IT TO MINI-URD!
FFT


REAL-LY?
YOU PROMISE?
REAL-LY.

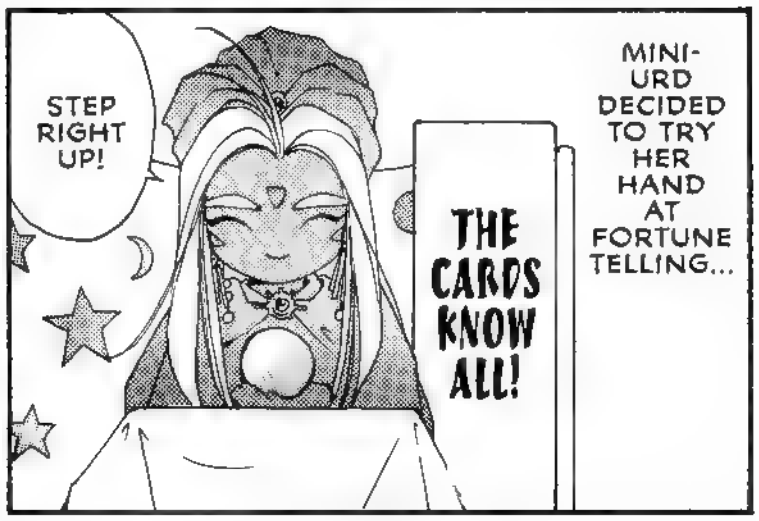

WELL... WE WANNA GAMBLE, TOO.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

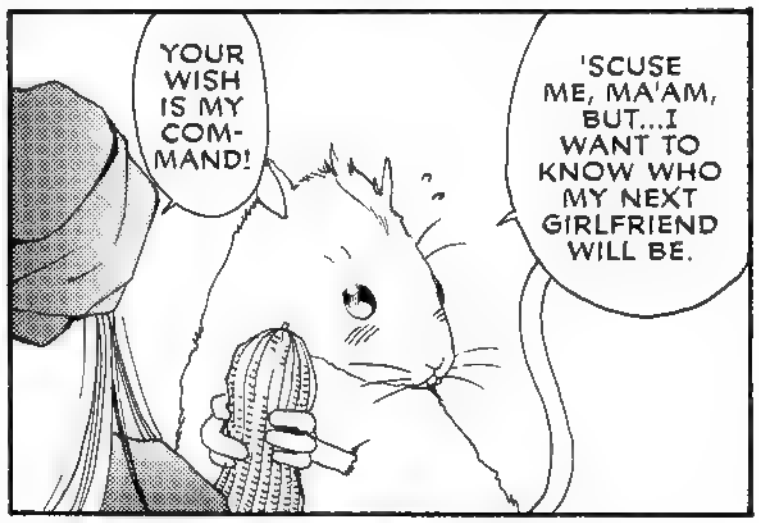

BEFORE I REALLY CLOBBER YOU!
GET OUT HERE !!!

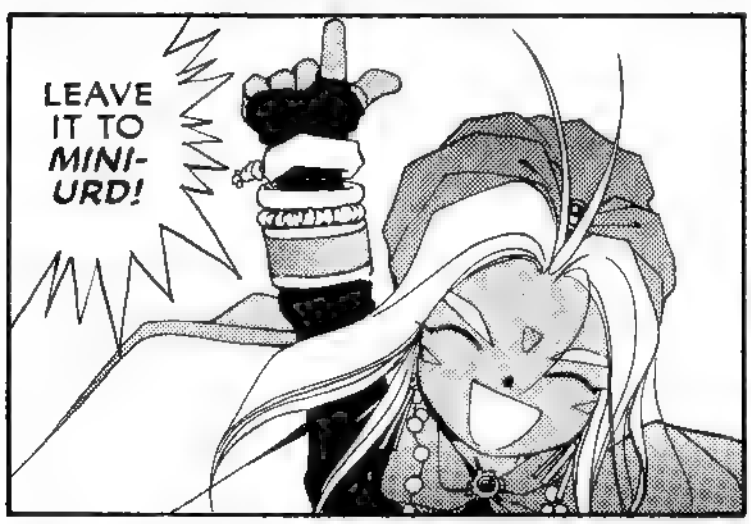
YOU'RE COVERED!
URD'S WARRANTY SERVICE

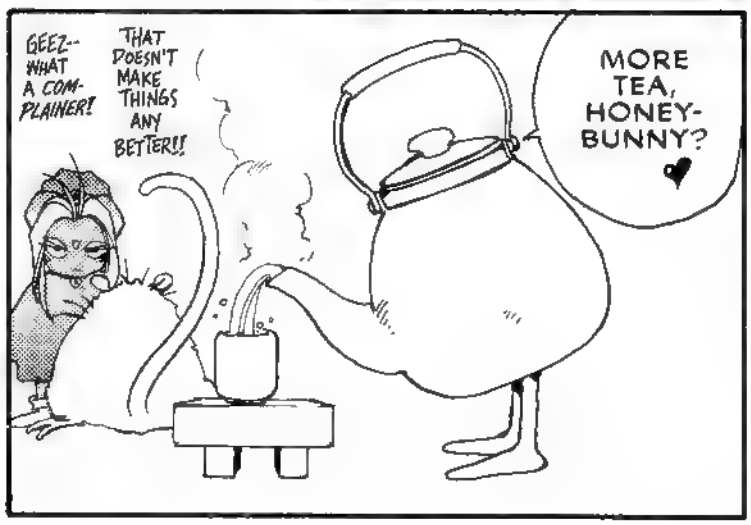


AMAZING!
THE CARDS NEVER LIE!









Aaah

BBB RRR!

AL-RIGHT, WHO--

WHY IS IT *COLD* ALL OF A SUDDEN ?!

...NOTHING LIKE A NICE, HOT BATH.

CHAPTER 32

The Third Goddess

ANY-BODY HOME?

HMM?

...YOU LITTLE BRAT!

EEP! WHAT'RE *YOU* DOING HERE, URD?!

I DON'T *APPRE-CIATE* HAVING WATER SPLASHED ALL OVER ME...

!!

OVER *HERE*, SKULD.

茶

森里組

勉

THE *NERVE* OF THAT KID! WHAT'S *SHE* DOING HERE...?

SSHHH

DAMN IT... SHE RAN AWAY.

NO 17

WAIT... NOW THE AXLE SHAFT'S BIGGER THAN THE *GEAR!*

...JUST AS WELL I LET URD TAKE HER BATH FIRST...

blupp blupp

sigh I'M NEVER GONNA GET THIS STUPID ASSIGN-MENT FIGURED OUT!

kyaaaaa!
FWMP
YEEOW! HOT HOT! HOT!
BLUBB BLUBB BLUBB
gasp!
owwwwww...

I'M *SKULD*, GODDESS SECOND CLASS, LIMITED!

HI THERE!

...ARE YOU A FRIEND OF BELL-DANDY'S?

SO...

THAT SAID, WHY ARE YOU ON TOP OF ME...?

...MY NAME'S KEIICHI... COLLEGE STUDENT...

ER... HI...

VSHHHHH

!!

BLUBB BLUBB

HEY, I CAN'T HELP IT. I CAN ONLY DO IT THROUGH HOT WATER, Y'KNOW!

BESIDES, DID I *ASK* YOU TO FOLLOW ME, URD?!

DID YOU *HAVE* TO TRANSPORT YOURSELF THROUGH A CUP OF *TEA?*

OH, YEAH... ALSO, YOU LITTLE *DUMMY!*

YEEOW! HOT HOT! *HOT!*

ah!

eh?

THAT MOUTH OF YOURS IS GONNA GET YOU INTO SOME *REAL* HOT WATER, YOUNG LADY!!

WHEN DID *YOU* GET HERE, SKULD?

BIG SISTER!

NOW, SKULD...

YOU REALLY WANNA KNOW, HUH? *HUH?!*

HOW COME *BELLDANDY* GETS A HUG? SHE'S NOT YOUR ***ONLY*** SISTER!

HEY, HEY, *HEY!*

AND BECAUSE, UNLIKE ***YOU***, BELLDANDY IS I. HONEST II. UNSELFISH, III. GENTLE, AND IV. PURE!! ***THAT'S*** WHY!!

BECAUSE, URD, I CAN'T STAND YOUR A.) ARROGANT, B.) VIOLENT, C.) SELFISH, AND D.) ***STUPID*** BEHAVIOR!

WHAT TH-?

yeah! THAT'S WHY I CAME-- TO GET YOU TO RETURN HOME!

SSSZZKk

HM?

WHY DON'T WE LEAVE URD HERE, AND YOU COME BACK WITH ME?

HEY, SIS!

SL-

?!

FEAR

SO IF YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH... with...?!

LISTEN, YOU LITTLE WITCH! I MAY BE *LIMITED*, BUT I'M *STILL* A GODDESS *FIRST CLASS!**

*LIE.

W-WHAT'S *HE* DOING HERE?!

クノヴァ

....

SLEIPNIR ?!!

...THERE !!

? ? blink blink

OH, NO! I'M TOO LATE!!

AND THAT MEANS...

SLEIP-NIR!

ffffffff

TINK

UH, COULD YOU EXPLAIN THIS IN TERMS I CAN UNDER-STAND?

I COULDN'T NAIL 'EM ALL-- PROCESSING SPEED WASN'T FAST ENOUGH...

UM, WELL, Y'SEE...

SKULD ...!

WAS THAT A BUG? *HERE?!*

AND WHY DID I *TURN* TWO-*DIMEN-SIONAL*?

flap flap

WHAT TH' HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!

THANK YOU--I'M GOING BACK TO MY BATH...

QUICK, SIS, YOU GRAB A HAMMER TOO!

EEK! KEI-ICHI !!

...BUGS ARE PROLIFERATING OUT OF CONTROL IN THE YGGDRASIL SYSTEM META-PROGRAM.

SO, YOU SEE...

...IN WHICH THE BUGS WILL ENDLESSLY REPRODUCE THEM-SELVES.

WITHOUT CONSTANT DEBUGGING, THEY'LL GO INTO A LOOP STATE...

...CAUSING FLUCTUATIONS IN THE LOCUS OF SPACE A, OR THE COMPLETE DISAPPEAR-ANCE OF SPACE B, FOR EXAMPLE.

B DISAPPEARS FROM LOCUS β γ

A B A C

β CHANGE OVER TIME α

AND IF *THAT* HAPPENS, A QUASI-DIFFERENTIAL WILL OCCUR BETWEEN THE EXISTENCE PROBABILITIES OF NORMALLY EQUIVALENT SPACES...

KEIICHI!

fffttt

YOU MEAN, IN ADDITION TO BEING FLATTENED, I MIGHT SUDDENLY FLY OFF--

OR AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT SPACE--"C"-- MAY SUDDENLY MATERIALIZE, JUST LIKE SLEIPNIR DID A MOMENT AGO.

KBOOSH

fffft

OR INSIDE THE CORE OF A *NUCLEAR REACTOR?* THERE'S NO *TELLING* THE DANGER HE FACES!!

WHAT IF HE REMATERI-ALIZES AT 50,000 FEET...?

OH, DEAR !!

N- NOT REALLY...

ARE YOU ALL GANGING UP ON ME?

Poke Poke

HEY, HEY.

ALL RIGHT YOU TWO, BREAK IT UP!

WHY DO THESE THINGS HAPPEN TO *ME?!*

ARE YOU OKAY?

HUH?

THEY'RE *HAPPENING* TO YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE CLOSE TO A *SINGULARITY.*

THEY'RE THE FOCUS OF ALL THESE EVENTS, SO I'D *ADVISE* YOU NOT TO GET...

YOU KNOW... MY *SISTERS.*

UH, OH.

...CLOSE.

...TOO...

IF WE CAN'T COME UP WITH A DEBUGGING PROGRAM THAT WORKS...

A/EEEE!!! NGRARR!

THAT HOLY TEMPLE OF PEACE SURE HAS BEEN NOISY LATELY, HUH?

SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE TRYING TO GET ANI-MALS TO MATE...

AGAIN !!

WHAT TH--?!

THIS IS *YOUR* FAULT, SKULD! *YOU* WERE SUPPOSED TO BE THE DEBUGGER!

WHAK!

...THEY'RE GOING TO KEEP MULTI-PLYING!

--YOU BOTH *snif* LEFT ME BEHIND TO DO *EVERYTHING* BY *MYSELF!* *snif* IT WASN'T *FAIR!*

B- B- BUT--

OH, SPARE ME.

...D-DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A LITTLE KID, OKAY?

snif HEY...

....

sniff

AW, C'MON!

YOU KNOW, THIS IS A *NORMAL* DAY AROUND HERE!

IT'S NO BIG DEAL!

LET'S JUST BLOW 'EM *ALL* TO--

rage! fume!

AARGGHH! STOP *SNIVELING* AND START *ZAPPING* !!!

WAIT! URD, *STOP!!*

UM, HEY, DON'T FREAK OUT OR ANY-THING, BUT THERE'S A HOLE OPENING UP UNDER MY...

SEE?! THIS IS WHAT I *HATE* ABOUT YOU, URD!

KA-BOOM

KEIICHI! DON'T LOOK DOWN! THIS HOLE GOES TO AN ALTERNATE REALITY!!

huh? like this?

YAAAA!

.....

THANKS.

I'VE GOT MINE *FULL*, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

URD! GIVE ME A HAND HERE!

...THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF ME...!

FOR-GIVE ME, KEIICHI!

WHOOOSH

huh?

BUT... TO BE HONEST...

...IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I'LL BE *LIVING* WITH ANYBODY MUCH LONGER...

...FOR LIVING WITH A GODDESS... IT'S A *BARGAIN!*

FORGET IT! IF THIS IS THE PRICE I HAVE TO PAY...

SLAM!!

WHAT TH--?!

FSSHH

YOU'RE A NICE GUY AND ALL...

KEIICHI !!

I WASN'T GOING TO RESORT TO *THIS*, BUT...

grope

rummage

...BUT I DON'T WANT YOU TOUCHING MY SISTER.

...LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO TRY OUT SOMETHING I JUST *INVENTED!*

HMM? IT'S *WHAT?!*

N-NO! IT CAN'T *BE!* IT'S-- IT'S...

DO I HAVE TO DO THIS, *TOO?!*

AS FOR *YOU*, URD...

uh... HERE? AND HERE?

GOOD! AND BELL-DANDY, YOU PUT *YOUR* RIGHT HAND ON A RED, AND YOUR LEFT ON A WHITE...

LESSEE... OKAY, KEIICHI, PUT YOUR LEFT HAND ON A BLUE ONE, AND YOUR RIGHT HAND ON A RED...

...OVER HERE ...?

HEY! MOVE YER *FOOT*, KIDDO!

JEEZ... C'MON, SIS...

HERE, MAY-BE?

...I'M GETTING TO *LIKE* THIS GAME...

YOU KNOW...

!!

KA-BOOM

WE...

AND WE CAN'T GET *RID* OF THEM UNLESS YOU BOTH COME HOME...

THE YGGDRASIL SYSTEM *ITSELF* IS STILL FULL OF BUGS.

ahem ACTUALLY, SIS, WE'VE FAILED TO SOLVE THE ESSENTIAL PROBLEM.

WE *DID* IT! THE BUGS ARE *GONE!!*

KA-BOOM (once again)

URD! I DON'T REMEMBER BEING RAISED BY YOU, *PERIOD!*

SKULD! I DON'T REMEMBER RAISING YOU TO COME RUNNING TO YOUR BIG SISTERS EVERY TIME SOMETHING GOES *WRONG!*

SHUT UP!

OH, NO!

NOW LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE! THEY'VE MADE ***BACKUPS*** AGAIN!!

WHATEVER YOU ARE, BEAT IT.

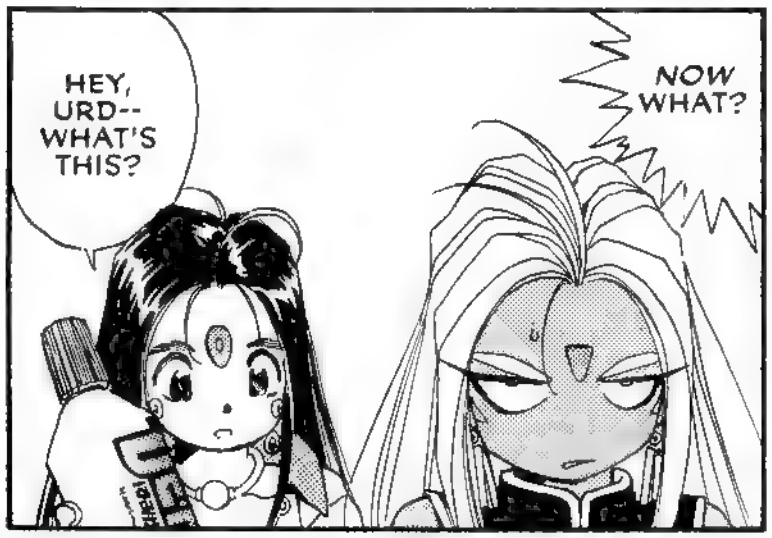
Then it's just the two of ussss, darling!

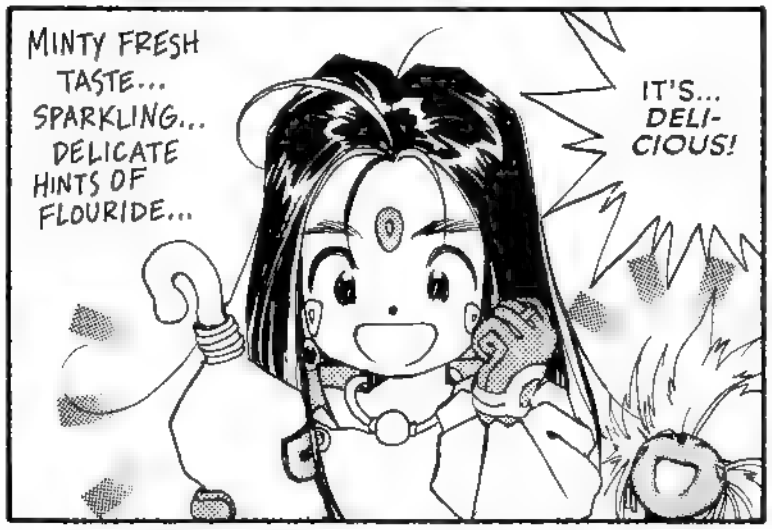
DOES THIS MEAN BELLDANDY MIGHT HAVE TO LEAVE, AFTER ALL...?

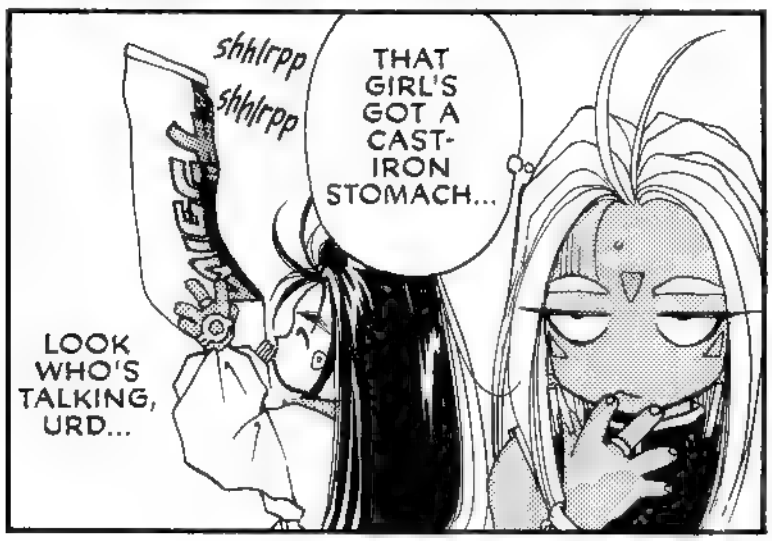
THE ADVENTURES OF MINI-URD

Introducing MINI-SKULD!!

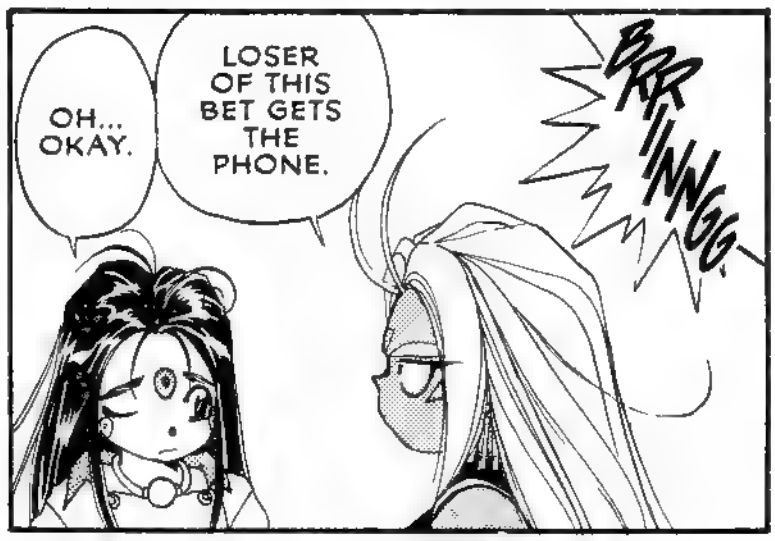
CAN YOU EAT THIS?! THE ULTIMATE GOURMAND!

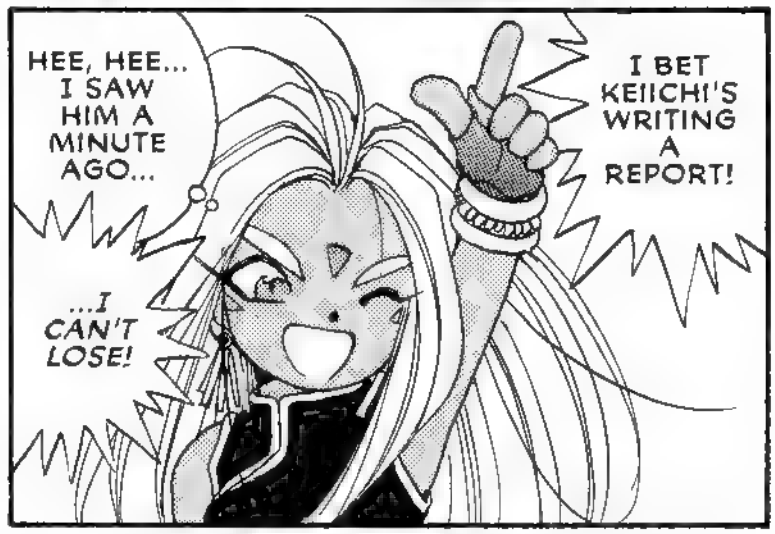


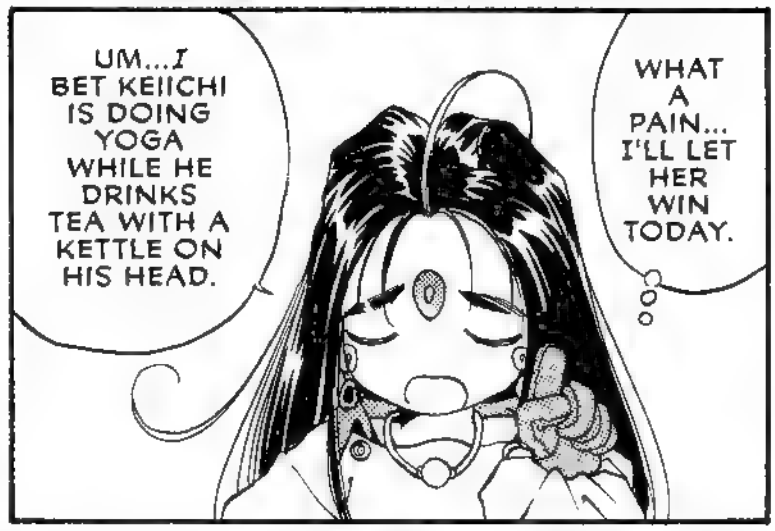


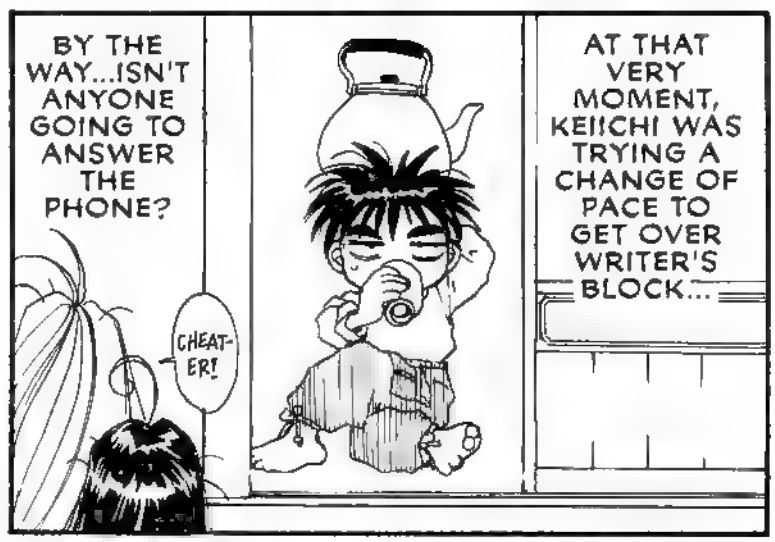


A CASUAL BET








BY THE WAY...ISN'T ANYONE GOING TO ANSWER THE PHONE?
CHEAT-ER!
AT THAT VERY MOMENT, KEIICHI WAS TRYING A CHANGE OF PACE TO GET OVER WRITER'S BLOCK...

CHAPTER 88

The Goddesses' Greatest Danger

WHICH DIDN'T SOLVE THE PROB-LEM.

...SO BELLDANDY AND URD'S LITTLE SISTER ***SKULD*** ARRIVED TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

IN CASE YOU STARTED HERE: A BOTCHED ATTEMPT TO DEBUG ***YGGDRASIL***, THE CELESTIAL COMPUTER SYSTEM, HAS FILLED MORISATO'S HOUSE WITH BUGS....

SO NO MATTER ***HOW*** MANY WE ELIMINATE, THEY JUST KEEP PROLIFERATING. AT THIS RATE OUR WORK'LL ***NEVER*** BE DONE.

WE GODDESSES FORM A SINGULARITY THAT ATTRACTS THE BUGS.

BUT, ACCOR-DING TO ***SKULD***...

ALL ?!

THE ONLY ***REAL*** SOLUTION IS FOR US ALL TO RETURN HOME...

tick tock

NO DAMN WAY *I'M* GONNA LEAVE!

YEAH! WHY SHOULD WE *ALL* SUFFER JUST 'CAUSE *YOU* SCREWED UP?!

I *LIKE* IT HERE!!

WELL, YES, I DID CLAIM THAT...

...TO RE-CHARGE BELL-DANDY'S *SYSTEM FORCE.*

EXCUSE ME, URD...BUT IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, YOU *CLAIMED* YOU ONLY CAME DOWN HERE...

ME?

I MEAN, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S MOST AFFECTED BY ALL THIS.

...WHAT DO *YOU* WANT TO DO, BELL-DANDY?

AIEEE!

KEIICHI ?!

IT'S COMING FROM HIS BED-ROOM!!

!!

APPARENTLY, MY BODY'S BEEN MAGNETIZED.

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM...?

...IF I DON'T GO HOME, KEIICHI MAY NEVER BE FREE OF THE DANGER POSED BY THESE BUGS.

WELL...

SO I MUST EITHER STAY BY HIS SIDE, CONSTANTLY REMOVING THE BUGS-- OR RETURN HOME.

IT'S ONE OR...

風林火山

SORRY, BUT ...!

WISH

FWAK

WHAK

YOU'VE GOTTA GET 'EM BEFORE THEY CAN ESCAPE-- LIKE... THIS!!

DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME APOLO-GIZING!!

HE JUST STEPPED IN FRONT OF THE HAMMER!

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

OH... HEY, KEIICHI!

I AM *NOT* A "LIAR, LIAR, PANTS ON FIRE!"

I'M NOT LYING! I REALLY *AM* ONE!

DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK! I'M A GODDESS ***FIRST CLASS!!***

groan

I'M SOR-RY...

...IS THE SUN TOO BRIGHT FOR YOU?

NO... IT'S OKAY...

.....

...I PROMISE TO COME BACK.

?

KEI-ICHI...

I...

BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY FOR ME TO PROTECT KEIICHI...

...I DOUBT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO COME BACK VERY SOON, Y'KNOW.

BUT...

I KNOW.

...AS LONG AS IT'S YOUR OWN CHOICE, I GUESS THERE'S NO DANGER IN IT.

HMM...

"PROMISE TO COME BACK" ...?

YOU MEAN--?!

I'LL BE WAIT-ING!

TAKE CARE, KEIICHI!

I'LL RETURN AS SOON AS WE'VE FIXED THE SYSTEM... I PROMISE!

WELL, GUESS IT'S MY TURN.

IT TAKES A REAL MAN TO KEEP SMILING WHEN HIS LOVE GOES AWAY!

HMM... KEPT YOUR COOL, KEIICHI.

BYE-BYE...

I NEED WATER TO GET OUT OF HERE..

UM... OKAY IF I USE YOUR BATH AGAIN?

IT'S BEEN A BLAST!

TAKE IT EASY, KID.

...IT'S QUIET.

...BOY...

SHE'S NEVER LIED TO ME EVEN ONCE.

IF SHE SAYS SHE'S COMING BACK, SHE WILL.

EEEEEK!

I'M ALL *WET!*

WHAT?! *WHAT ?!*

LIKE *WHAT?*

DID YOU DO SOME-THING TO THE WATER?!

I CAN'T MOVE *THROUGH* IT!

FZZK

UM...

BELL! BUT...

...THAT MEANS...

IF BOTH BELL-DANDY AND I COULDN'T LEAVE...

YOU TOO, SKULD ?!

...WHERE ARE YOU...?

URD!

OUR BATH-ROOM?

EH?

...HEY ...YOU DON'T THINK...

klik

SHE'S NOT IN THE LIVING ROOM EITHER!

NOT HERE...

YEAH, YOU GOTTA PRESS "POWER" FOR THESE TO WORK!

THANK YOU, GENIUS!

YOU'RE NOT... *TRAPPED* IN THERE, ARE YOU?

HUH? *ME?* OF *COURSE* NOT!

WHY ARE YOU SO UPSET, SIS?

OKAY... THEY *ASKED* FOR IT!

ZEBRA KNOCK PENCIL 0.5

THESE *BUGS* ARE MESSING EVERY-THING *UP!*

UM...

FINE, YOU JUST TAKE YOUR TIME AND RELAX.

HOW *NICE* FOR YOU.

I'M, uh... JUST *KICKIN' BACK! RELAX-ING!*

SKRKKK

...YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO LEAVE.

I'M ACTUALLY KIND OF GLAD...

I DUNNO IF I SHOULD SAY THIS, BUT...

SKRITCH SKRITCH

I SWEAR I WON'T LEAVE UNTIL I GET RID OF THEM *ALL!*

...WITH-OUT YOU.

ESPE-CIALLY...

...I MEAN... YOU KNOW.

THIS HOUSE WAS TOO EMPTY...

I KNOW YOU'RE HAPPY.

I KNOW.

AND YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE.

BELL-DANDY...

DONE!

--A.K.A. *MS. PAKU-PAKU-BUG-MAN!*

MY VERY OWN *BUG-CATCHING MACHINE--*

ON!

ALL RIGHT! TIME TO SWITCH IT--

MS. PAKU-PAKU-BUG-MAN!

ohhh WHAT AN ELEGANT DESIGN-- AND SOOO EFFICIENT, MY SWEET--

WHAT'S A "MECHA-FETISH"?

SHE GOT SOME KINDA MECHA-FETISH?

WHAT?

COULD YOUR PERFECTION HOLD A SECRET DESIGN FLAW?

WAIT A SEC...

HM?

JUST AS I THOUGHT! *NEUTRI-NOS!**

WHAT'S *THAT?*

A NEUTRINO COUNTER, *duh!*

MS. PAKU-PAKU-BUG-MAN! IS *ALLERGIC* TO NEUTRI-NOS!

AND RIGHT NOW IT'S PICKING UP NEUTRI-NOS...

...FROM *YOUUUUU*, KEIICHI!!

Y'MEAN-- THE SINGU-LARITY ISN'T *YOU* GUYS...

...IT'S *ME?*

WELL, NOT EXACTLY.

YOU AREN'T THE SINGU-LARITY.

BUT YOU HAVE ONE *INSIDE* YOU.

WHAT?! HOW'D *THAT* HAP-PEN?!

*nearly massless elementary particles without electric charge, able to pass through almost any substance—but you knew that.

THE DIVINE WORLD HAS MANY MORE DIMENSIONS THAN YOURS, KEIICHI.

ahem

THE ENERGY DISCHARGED IN THIS PROCESS NORMALLY DISPERSES SAFELY.

BUT *OUR* ENERGY...

...BECAME BUILT UP AND *CONCEN-TRATED* AROUND YOU, KEIICHI.

JUST AS A TWO-DIMENSIONAL PERSON WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE SOMEONE IN THREE DIMEN-SIONS...

...PEOPLE IN YOUR THREE-DIMENSIONAL WORLD NORMALLY CAN'T SEE US.

AND AS ***MORE AND MORE*** OF IT BUILT UP...

...IT STARTED FORMING A ***VORTEX...***

...WITH YOUR ***BODY MASS*** SERVING AS AN ATTRAC-TOR.

WE CREATE THIS FORM OF OURSELVES BY CONSTANTLY REGENERATING OUR ATOMIC STRUCTURE...

...JUST SO WE CAN BECOME VISIBLE.

EVENTUALLY IT TOOK ON THE FORM OF A ***QUANTUM BLACK HOLE.***

...A STABILIZED ONE, OF COURSE.

tsk

tsk

POTTY MOUTH.

THEN HOW TH' *HELL* ARE WE GONNA GET RID OF THE BLACK HOLE?!!

LIKE I *SAID*, IT WON'T WORK 'CAUSE OF THE BLACK HOLE.

WELL, WHAT ABOUT YOUR BUG-ZAP-PER?

Y-E-S-S-S-S... BUT WE CAN'T DO *THAT* UNLESS WE GO HOME.

THEN ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS SHUT OFF THE ENERGY SOURCE!

GIVE ME A HAND, OKAY?

I'VE GOT A *BRILLIANT* IDEA.

Chik

Chak

...UM, COULD YOU EXPLAIN THIS AGAIN?

RIGHT! I DUNNO HOW MUCH POWER THIS IS GONNA NEED, BUT...

MY OBSERVATIONS INDICATE THAT ITS AXIS OF ROTATION IS INCLINED.

THIS IS OUR BLACK HOLE.

OKAY! *HERE'S* THE PLAN.

...AND TO HELP US *SPEED UP* THE ROTATION, WE HAVE...

...CAUSING IT TO *DEVIATE* FROM ITS ORBIT. THAT'S WHEN WE'LL *YANK IT OUT!*

THEREFORE, WE'LL USE A MASSIVE INFUSION OF ENERGY TO SPEED *UP* ITS ROTATION...

...THE *SUPER ENERGY INFUSION MACHINE MARK ONE!!*

VREEEEE

ONI

oooooh YOU HAVE SUCH A *SUPERBLY* DESIGNED *BODY!!*

C'MON--LET'S GO.

ALL RIGHT! SWITCH--

RIGHT, RIGHT...

klik

VRRNNNN

KSSSH

VREEEEEE

VRRRRMM

NOTHING'S HAPPENING...

SKEEEEE

...NOT ENOUGH OUT-PUT...

hmmmm...

SHISSH

...I HAVE NO MORE CHOICES.

KTUNK

THAT'S IT...

BOOM

...MORE POWER !!!

VRRR

GACK! EMERGENCY SHUT-DOWN!!

THE BREAK-ERS THREW!

BELL-DANDY ?!

KRRRRRRRR

KSSSSHH

SHE... SHE SAID SHE HAD TO KEEP CONSTANTLY REGEN-ERATING HER STRUCTURE TO KEEP HER FORM... WAIT!!

OH, NO!!

WHAT'S WRONG ?!

...TO CUT OFF THE ENERGY TO THE BLACK HOLE...?

DID YOU STOP REGEN-ERATING...

NOT ENOUGH JUICE IN THIS OLD HOUSE...

IT'S HOPE-LESS.

sigh *URD!*

...BUT THERE'S NO OTHER SOLUTION AT THIS POINT.

I WAS TRYING TO *AVOID* DOING THIS...

ACK! I *FORGOT*... THE *POWER'S* OUT!

LOOK AT BELL-DANDY !!

SKULD... *HURRY UP!*

!!

flick

YEAH? WHAT'S UP?

ARE YOU WATCH-ING TV *INSIDE* A TV?

HOPE THIS WORKS...

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE STILL JUST A GODDESS *SECOND CLASS!*

STOP BUGGING ME EVERY TIME YOU RUN INTO A PROBLEM!

AT LEAST I DON'T *LIE* ABOUT BEING SECOND CLASS...

JUST HELP ME OUT THIS ONE TIME AND I *PROMISE* I WON'T ASK YOU AGAIN!

OKAY, *OKAY* !!

AHHH... BEG-GING. LIFT ME ON HIGH!

SHE'S FADING OUT !!

O Sea of Clouds That Covers Heaven! Hear My Voice!

Know My Will! I Am Urd... GREATEST of the Goddesses...

SKRFF

DO SOME-THING... *SOME-BODY!!*

...And I Call Down the LIGHT-NING!!

INAZAWA

WINDS

SATO

...mm.

uhh...

kei...

...KEIICHI ...?

WE NEED

VRRNNN

FAN

UMM...

...KEIICHI...

ohhhh!

I...I ALMOST *LOST* YOU... *SWEAR* TO ME...YOU WON'T *EVER* DO THAT AGAIN...

yeah?

huh?

...EVEN IF I ***DO*** STOP REGENERATING, I ONLY VANISH FOR A FEW MOMENTS. IT'S REALLY NO PROBLEM.

...WHILE ***MS. PAKU-PAKU-BUG-MAN!*** DID ITS WORK ONE BY ONE.

WELL, THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO GO HOME *NOW*, IS THERE?

HEY, HOW LONG YOU GONNA STICK AROUND, SKULD?

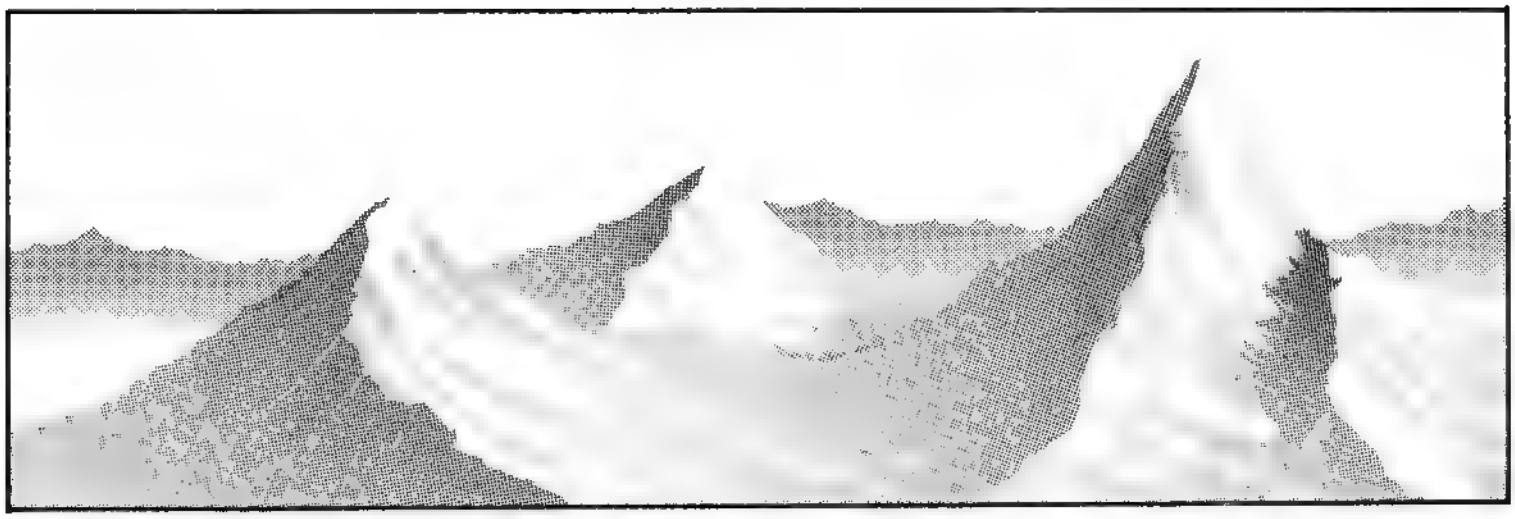
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO WITH ALL THIS STUFF?

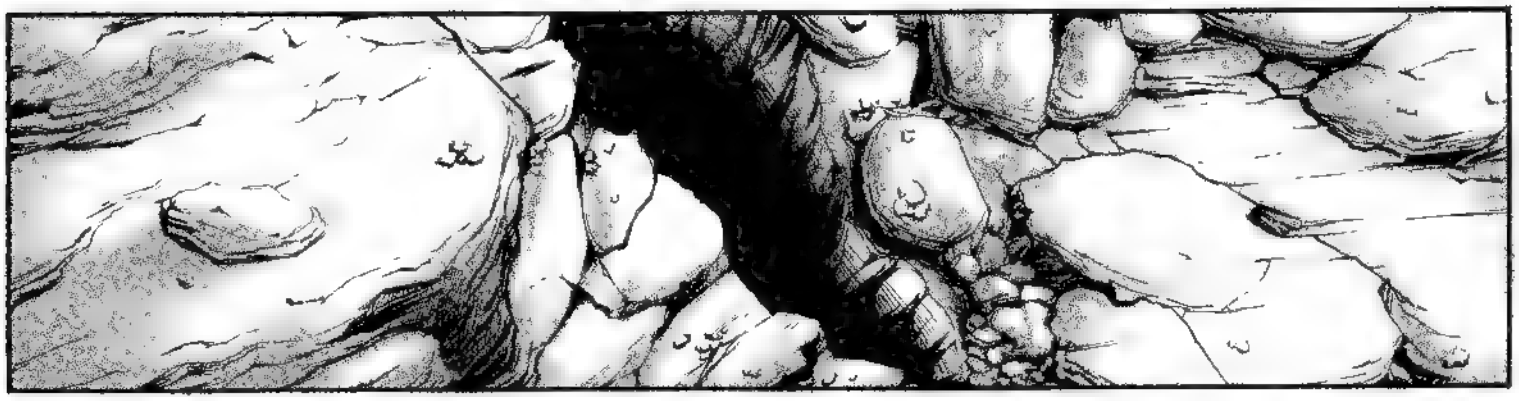
THERE GOES ANO-THER ONE...

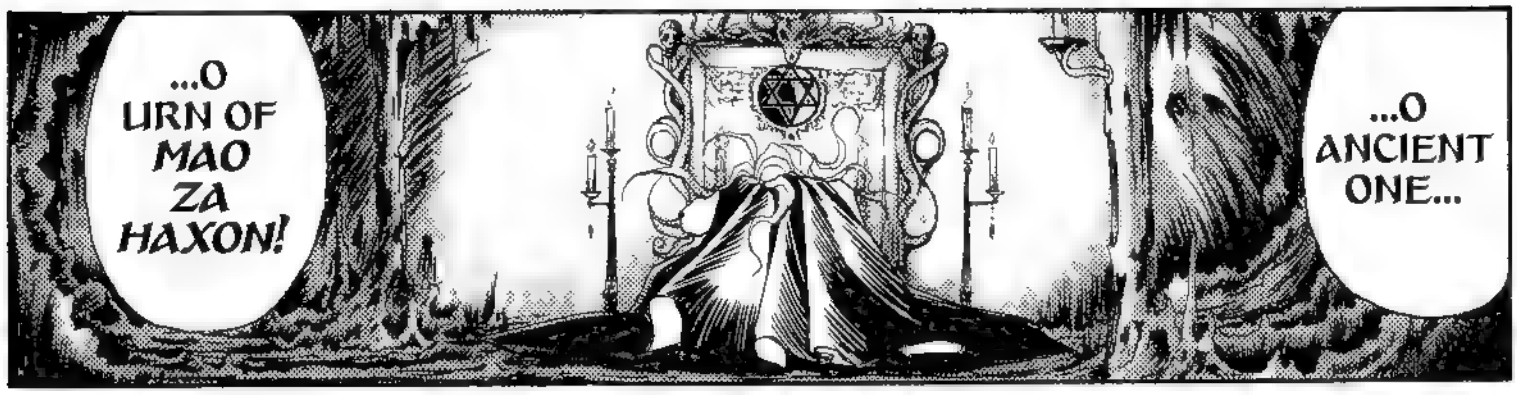
AND SO THE HOUSE HAD MORE JUNK THAN EVER...

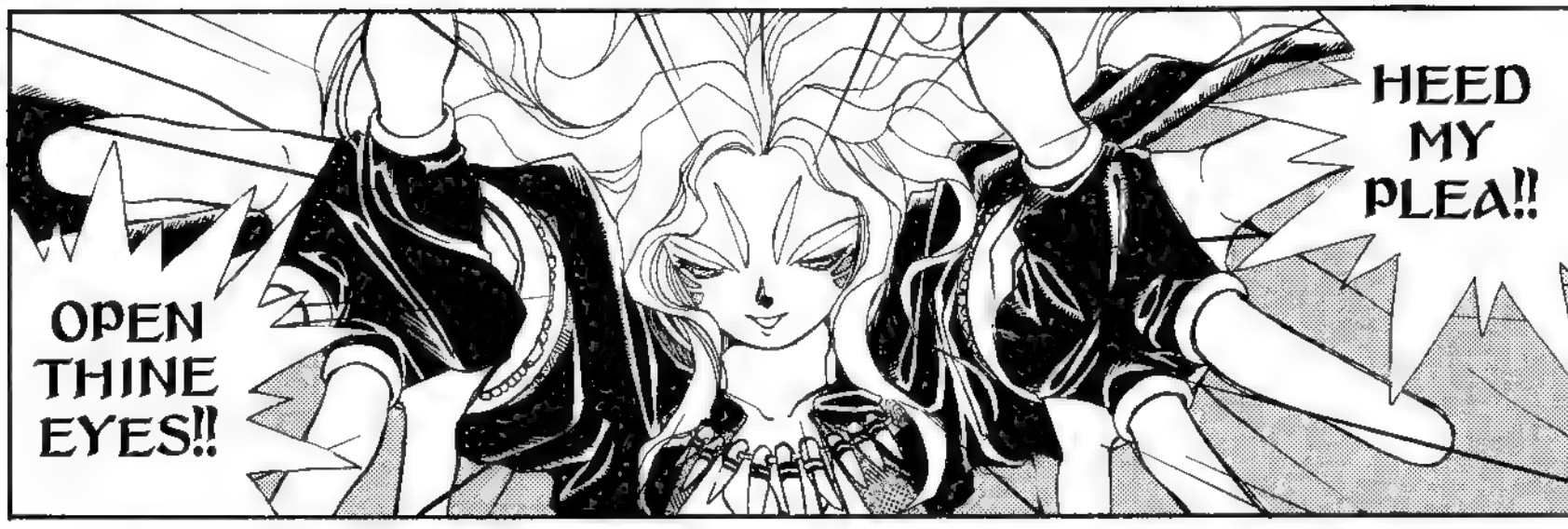
CHAPTER 34

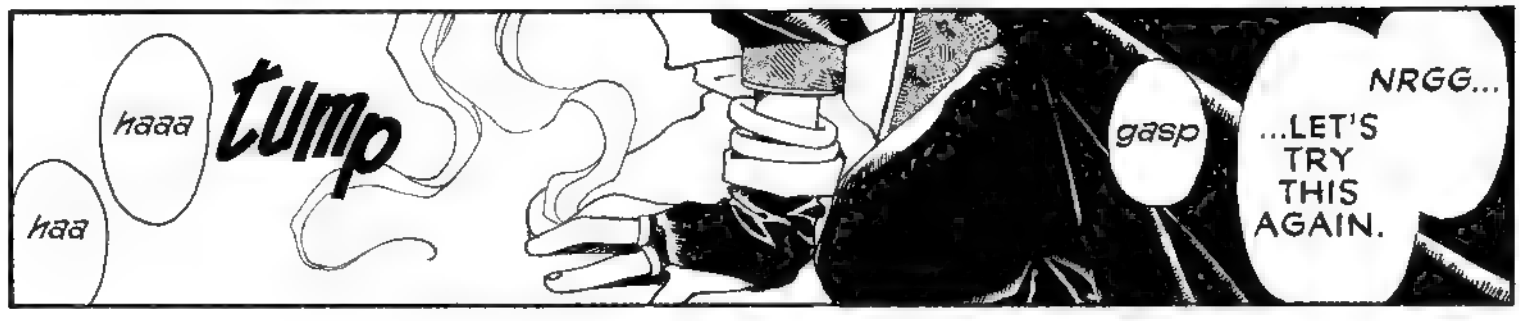
Urd Goes Wild






...O URN OF MAO ZA HAXON!
...O ANCIENT ONE...


OPEN THINE EYES!!
HEED MY PLEA!!


haa
haaa
tump
gasp
NRGG...
...LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN.

haaa

YES... AFTER A LONG, ARDUOUS JOUR-NEY...

...I FACE THEE *AT LAST!*

NYAGU-TIA!

WHEN NEXT THOU OPENEST THINE EYES, *THEN* SHALL THE DARK MASTER OF TERROR RETURN--

LET THE ANCIENT OVERLORD OF TERROR, LEGEND AMONG DEMONS...

...RETURN TO LIFE IN THEE... *MAO ZA HAXON!*

--TO LEND ME *POWER*, THAT TOGETHER WE MAY *DESTROY THE GODDESS-ES!*

...BUT WHATEVER IT TAKES.

OKAY... I ADMIT I FEEL A LITTLE DUMB TALKING TO THIS THING...

HUH... IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SUNNY TODAY.

THE LAUNDRY !!

SSSshhhhhh

BKROOM

RMBB RMBB

GACK! I LEFT THE COVER OFF THE SIDECAR!!

SOME-THING FEELS WRONG...

IT'S STRANGE-- I DIDN'T SENSE THE RAIN COMING...

SOME-BODY GONNA GET THE PHONE?!

NO WAY! LEMME SEE!!

BRR IN NG

BRR IING

BRRING

BRRING

BECAUSE TODAY'S AN UNLUCKY DAY FOR BIG SISTERS TO PICK UP THE PHONE.

BRRING

WHY DON'T YOU GET IT *YOUR-SELF*, URD?

RIGHT...

...I'LL GO FIRST.

FIRST ONE TO PULL THE DETONATOR HAS TO GET THE PHONE, OKAY?

YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT THE GODDESS OF GAMBLING AT HER OWN GAME, EH?!

ha!

SMART-MOUTH LITTLE BRAT...

KEEP LYING LIKE *THAT* AND YOU'LL HAVE YOUR LICENSE SUSPENDED FOR *SURE!*

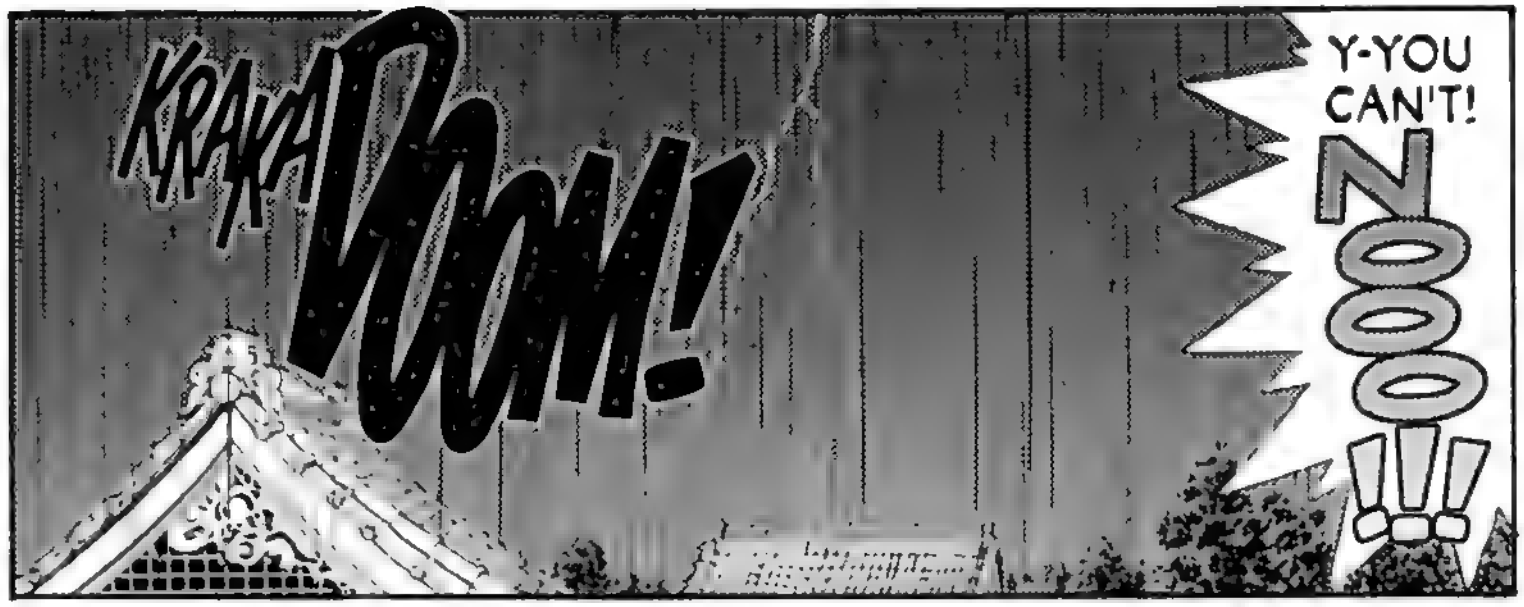
hmph!

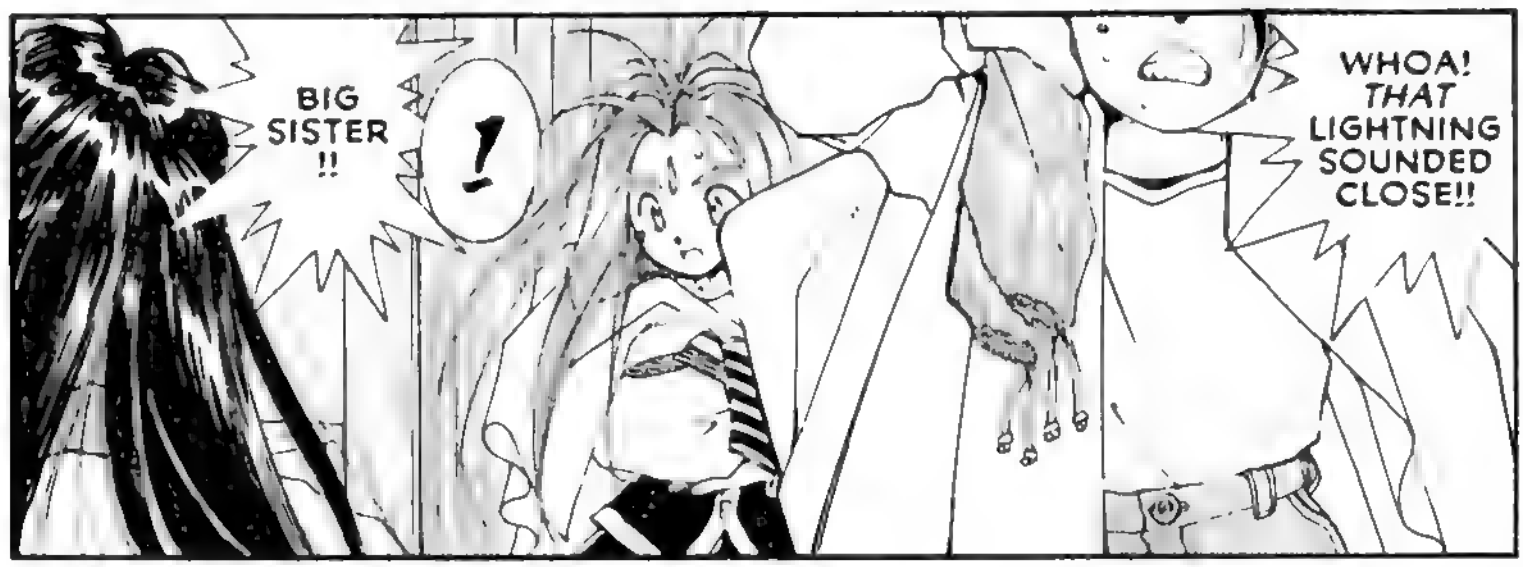
...IT'S STILL RING-ING.

BRRING

OKAY, LET'S USE THIS TO DECIDE.

HUH?
MY LORD!
I MEAN, SIR!
OWW- WWW... HELLO?


KRAKA
BOOM!
Y-YOU CAN'T!
NOO!!!


BIG SISTER !!
!
WHOA! THAT LIGHTNING SOUNDED CLOSE!!

WAIT A SEC! I THINK SHE'S TRYING TO *SAY* SOME-THING!

CEN... SE...

LI...

...AND... AND THEN...

I...I DON'T *KNOW!* SHE ANSWERED THE PHONE...

URD!! WHAT HAPPENED ?!

beep beep

HUH? "LICENSE SUSPEND-ED"...?

S-SUS...

...PEND... ED...

THAT PHONE CALL WAS TO TELL YOU YOUR *GODDESS* LICENSE WAS SUSPEND-ED?!

gasp! ***URD!***

beep

...HUH. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW SHE COULD DRIVE.

beep

THAT'S RIGHT.

OH, YEAH... YOU'VE GOT SOME KIND OF SYSTEM, DON'T YOU...?

GOD-DESS LICENSE ...?

b-beep

beep

OOPS-- MISSED! SORRY ABOUT THAT!

CLASS REFLECTS THE DEGREE OF YOUR PRECISION AND POWER.

FOR EXAMPLE, I HAVE A GODDESS FIRST CLASS, TYPE 2 (UNLIMITED) LICENSE.

← URD: GODDESS SECOND CLASS (LIMITED) HAS POWER, BUT NOT MUCH PRECISION.

SHAD-DUP!

I'LL BLOW YA UP IF I WANT TO!!

← SKULD: GODDESS SECOND CLASS, TYPE 1 (LIMITED) HAS SO LITTLE POWER SHE HARDLY RATES RESTRICTIONS...

"TYPE 2" MEANS IT'S A COMMER-CIAL LICENSE.

"LIMITED" OR "UNLIMITED" REFERS TO RESTRICTIONS ON THE LEVEL OF POWER YOU CAN USE.

AND THERE ARE *PENALTIES* FOR IGNORING THEM...

A LICENSE GIVES YOU RIGHTS AS WELL AS RESPONSI-BILITIES.

beep...

BASICALLY, ONCE YOU PILE UP ENOUGH LIES, ***YOUR LICENSE IS IMMEDIATELY SUSPENDED.***

...AND THE PENALTY FOR ***REPEATED LYING*** IS PARTICU-LARLY STIFF.

...HUH?

EEEEEE--

FIGURES-- URD LIES THE WAY SOME PEOPLE BREATHE. NO *WONDER* THEY YANKED HER LICENSE...

BEEEEEE

SHUT UP! STOP TALKING ABOUT ME!

--ENOUGH OF THIS!!

SSSSSSHHHH

SHE SEEMED VERY ANGRY.

WELL? HAS SHE KILLED US YET?

WELL, I'M GLAD SHE HAS A *LITTLE* COMMON SENSE IN THERE... SOMEWHERE.

twitch! rage! seethe!

HA! LOOKIT THAT! SHE KNOWS IF SHE USES HER POWER ***NOW,*** SHE'LL LOSE HER LICENSE ***PERMANENTLY.***

THIS LONG.

SAY... HOW LONG DOES THIS SUSPENSION *LAST,* ANYWAY?

HA. HA. HA.

*I wanna be a **real** boy! Hang out on Pleasure Island and shoot pool!*

STILL PRONE TO MAKE FUNNY NOISES.

HA. HA. HA.

HOW IS SHE?

FIVE ***YEARS*** ?!

FIVE MINUTES!

FIVE MONTHS?

FIVE DAYS?

THIS LONG.

tmp

I GUESS IF YOU TAKE AWAY URD'S POWER, SHE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH OF ANYTHING ELSE LEFT.

TRY FIFTY YEARS!!!

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.

T--

--TO DO *WHAT*?!

TO BECOME *HUMAN*!!

CLOTHES! I CAN'T CONJURE THEM UP ANYMORE!

WHAT *FOR?*

LOAN ME SOME MONEY, WILL YA, SKULD?

SOME HARE-BRAINED SCHEME, I GUESS...

IF A LOUSY WOODEN DOLL CAN BECOME HUMAN...

...SO CAN *I!!*

...URD... PINOCCHIO IS A *CHILDREN'S* STORY.

I *KNOW!* I'LL DROP BY MEGUMI'S AND BORROW HER MOTOR-CYCLE!

WALKING TAKES A LONG TIME...EVEN WITH *THESE* LEGS.

I CAN'T *FLY* ANY MORE, EITHER...

WAKE UP!!

HUH?

DO THOSE GO ALL THE WAY UP?

HEY, YOU --?!

WHSSHH

HM?

...I WAS *SURE* SHE WAS GOING TO STOMP ME...

THAT'S FUNNY...

URD'S JUST TOO STUB-BORN.

...DO YOU THINK SHE KNOWS WE'RE FOLLOW-ING HER?

I COULD HAVE CONJURED SOME CLOTHES FOR HER, AFTER ALL...

WHERE'S SHE GOING ...?

THE MALL'S THE *OTHER* WAY!

THANKS, MEGUMI!

OKAY, HERE YOU GO.

NEVER *COULD* FIGURE HER OUT...

hup!

OKAY, HERE I GO *GO GO!!*

...BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU WANNA RIDE IT DRESSED LIKE *THAT?*

UH, LOOK... I DON'T MIND LENDING YOU THE *BIKE...*

WHY NOT?

KSR

KSR

LICENSE...? OH YEAH, YOU BET... ha ha...

YOU'VE GOT A *LICENSE*, RIGHT?

...SINCE I HAD MY LICENSE SUSPENDED, I'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO DRIVE!

UH, WAIT A SEC...

EH?

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, URD?

...TWIST THE *THROTTLE*... LET GO OF THE *CLUTCH*--

THUNK

BRAAP

...SQUEEZE THE *CLUTCH*... PRESS DOWN ON THE *SHIFT*...

klik

KCHAK

...FIRST I TURN THE *KEY*...

OKAY, BE CALM... I JUST THINK...

KCHAK

...THEN I KICK *DOWN* TO START THE ENGINE...

MY *HAND!*

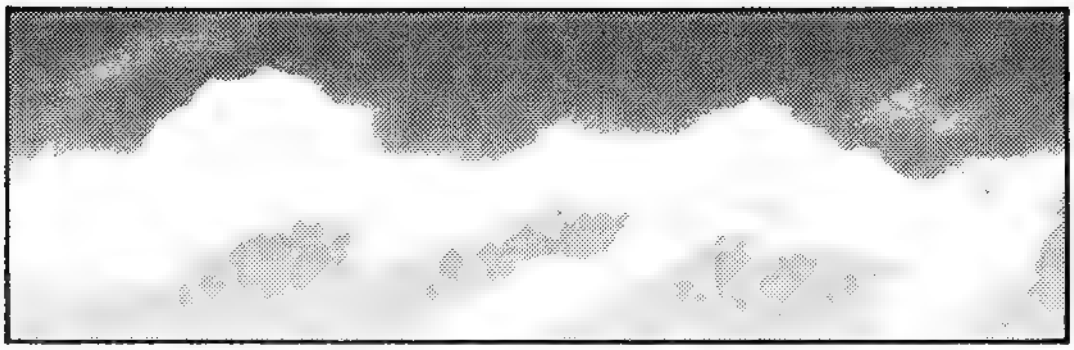
CRAMP!

BRAAP

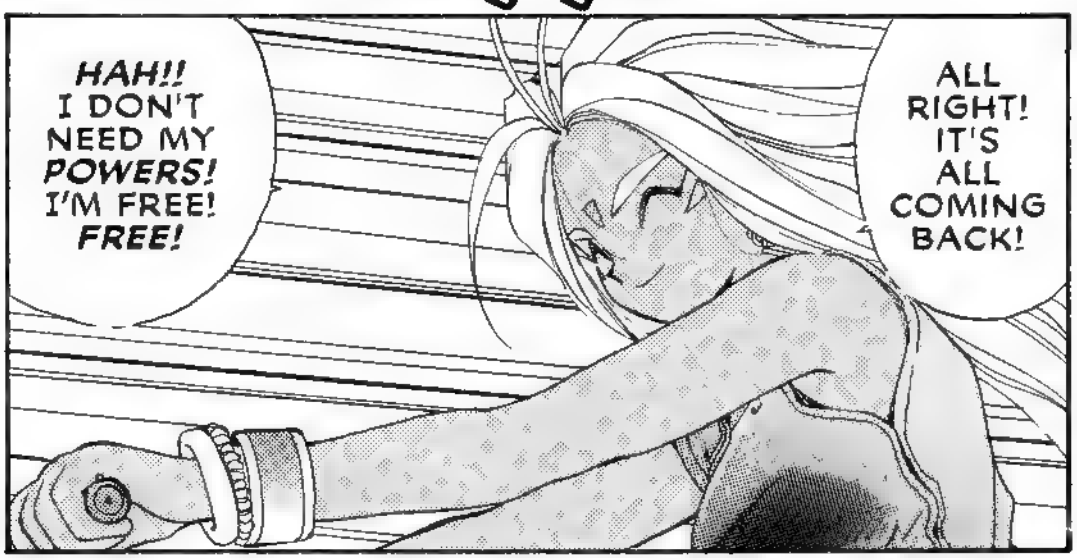
OH, CLUTCH, I JUST CAN'T LET YOU GO!!

RELAX! RELAX!

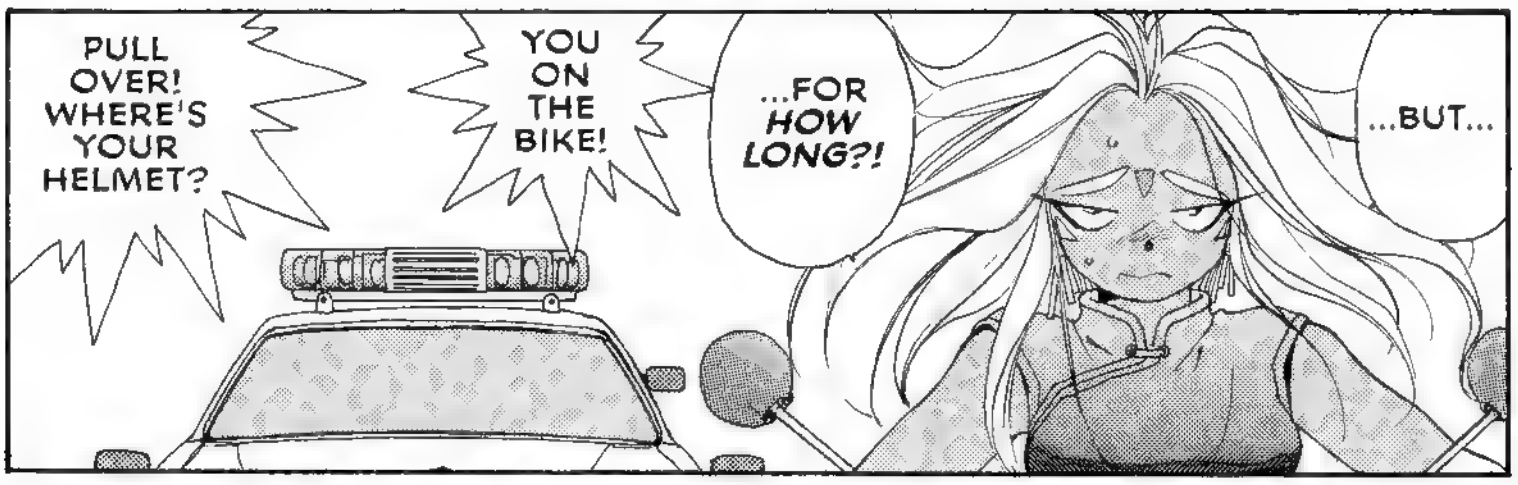
HUH...

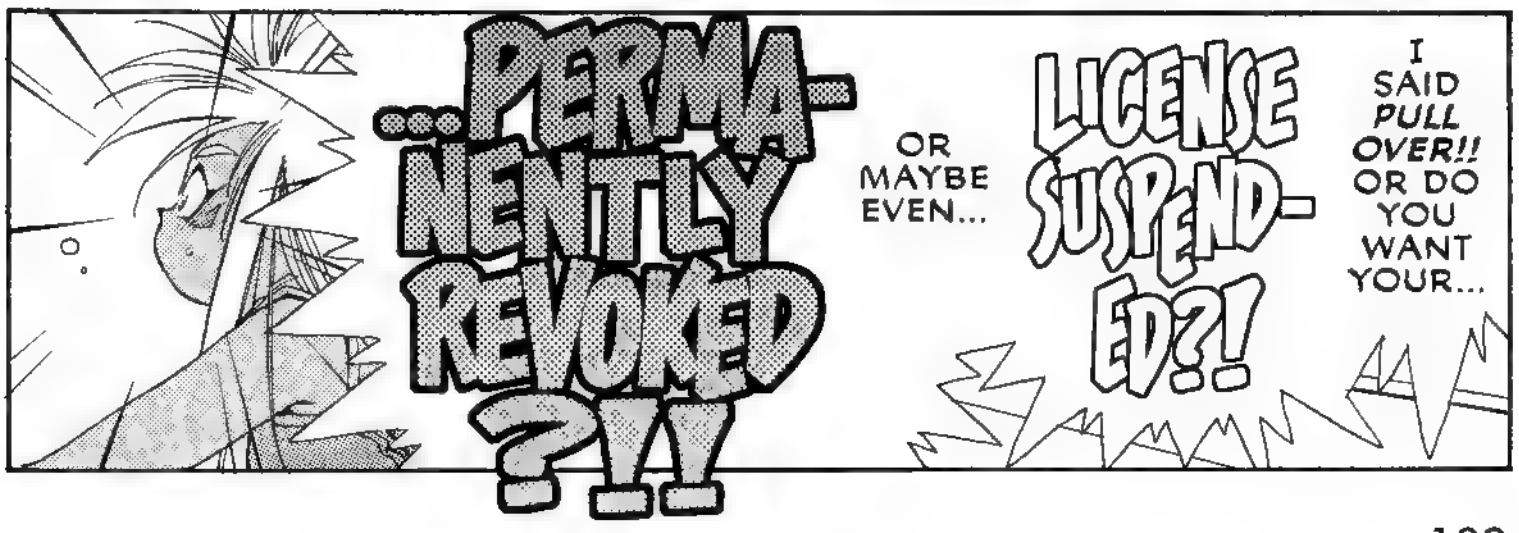


BRAAAAPPP


HAH!! I DON'T NEED MY POWERS! I'M FREE! FREE!
ALL RIGHT! IT'S ALL COMING BACK!

FORGOT TO GIVE HER MY HELMET.
WHOOPS.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HAIR FLY LIKE THAT...


PULL OVER! WHERE'S YOUR HELMET?
YOU ON THE BIKE!
...FOR HOW LONG?!
...BUT...


...PERMA-NENTLY REVOKED?!
OR MAYBE EVEN...
LICENSE SUSPEND-ED?!
I SAID PULL OVER!! OR DO YOU WANT YOUR...

I'VE...

...HAD ENOUGH.

JUST *WATCH* ME *LEG IT* AS I *RIDE UP* THIS ROAD, COPPERS!

NOW I'LL SHOW YOU SOME-THING!

STOP IN THE NAME OF THE *THIGH*-- I MEAN, *LAW!!*

KSR

Skrip

STAY *CLOSE!*

chortle

...BUT THEY'RE *DANGER-OUS* CURVES!

THEY MAY BE ROUND AND *SMOOTH*...

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?!

I KNEW SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN, BELL-DANDY!

SHE'S *EXPOSING* HERSELF TO DANGER! I CAN'T BEAR TO *SEE* IT!

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO *LOOK!*

ARRGH! THE CRAZY WAY SHE DRIVES! SHE'S FLYING ALL OVER THE PLACE!

DARKNESS CLOSING IN ON *ALL* SIDES!!

--I FEEL A SUDDEN SENSA-TION...

...EVIL... COLD !!

ER--

twitch

...WHAT'S WRONG ?!

....

BELL-DANDY...

NEVER MIND THAT-- HEY, LOOK OUT!

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, IDIOT!

HUH?

LOOK WITHIN YOURSELF! ASSUME YOUR RIGHTFUL FORM, AND ALL WILL BE RESOLVED!

HUH?

WHO ARE YOU ?!

sigh...

MOVE OVER, SARGE!

JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE!

YOU'RE GONNA GET CAUGHT!

WHY IS EVERY-BODY ALWAYS PICKING ON ME?!

KSR

HELP !!

AEE-!!

URD !!

SKRASSH!

ゴミ容器集積所
普通ゴミ
分別ゴミ
粗大ゴミ

...LIKE GAR-BAGE...

I'M TREAT-ED...

AWWW... SHE'S GONE!

...T-TO SEND HER BACK TOWARD THE HOUSE, BUT...

haa

I...I THINK I MAN-AGED...

gasp

...IT WAS ALL SO SUDDEN-- I WONDER WHERE SHE LANDED ...?

GODDESS OR HUMAN... IT'S ALL THE *SAME!*

WAAH! I CAN'T *STAND* IT!!

LOOK TO YOUR **TRUE, DEMONIC** *SELF--IT'S IN YOUR* **BLOOD!**

YES! IT'S **TRUE,** ISN'T IT?

NO, I'M NOT! I'M URD, GODDESS SECOND CLASS (LIMITED)!

A GODDESS WITHOUT POWER...? WHAT A PITY.

YOU ARE THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE DARK LORD!

AND, IF YOU ACT NOW... AS A SPECIAL, ONE-TIME OFFER, I'LL THROW IN YOUR VERY OWN PERSONAL SERVANT!

FNNKK

WHAT SAY YOU TO NO LIMITS-- TO DO AS YOU WILL?!

AND SUPPOSE... I WERE TO GRANT YOU POWER?

SH...

...SHUT UP!

OOH!

...AS MUCH AS YOU DESIRE?

YEAH... YEAH !!

IS IT NOT, AS MORTALS SAY, A "DRAG," TO BE SO LIMITED...?

THEN WHAT SAY YOU?

URD !!

URD!

THESE VAPORS!

...I'VE SEEN THEM BE-FORE...

KKSHHH !!

U... URD ...?

I NO LONGER ANSWER TO MY OLD NAME.

SISTER...

I AM THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE LORD OF TERROR !!

KNOW YE MY POWER... FOR I SHALL DESTROY EVERY-THING!!

DO YOU WANT YOUR LICENSE PERMA-NENTLY *REVOKED?*

beep

WHAT ARE YOU *SAYING ?!*

YOU CAN'T USE YOUR *POWER!*

URD !!

REVOKED! REVOKED!

ECHO!

ECHO!

...I'VE GOT THE *LORD OF TERROR* ON MY SIDE NOW, DON'T I?!

GOSH... THAT'S RIGHT...

DON'T TRY TO CHANGE MY MIND, BELL-DANDY!!

WHAT'S THIS? YOU SEEM CONFUSED...

*...THERE IS NO **ROOM** FOR CONFUSION IN YOU NOW!*

URD!

URD... MY DEAR SISTER... WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME HAS COME OVER YOU? THAT'S NOT YOU TALKING... IT'S SOMETHING ELSE...

NYA HA HA HA HA!

ahem HEAR ME, MORTALS AND IMMORTALS ALIKE! SOON, YOU SHALL KNEEL BEFORE ME AND BEG FOR MERCY...

AT LAST!! THE EYES HAVE OPENED !!

...huh?

SO... YOU ARE THE FOOLISH ONE WHO SUMMONS ME!

...

...

...NYA HA HA HA HA!

HA...

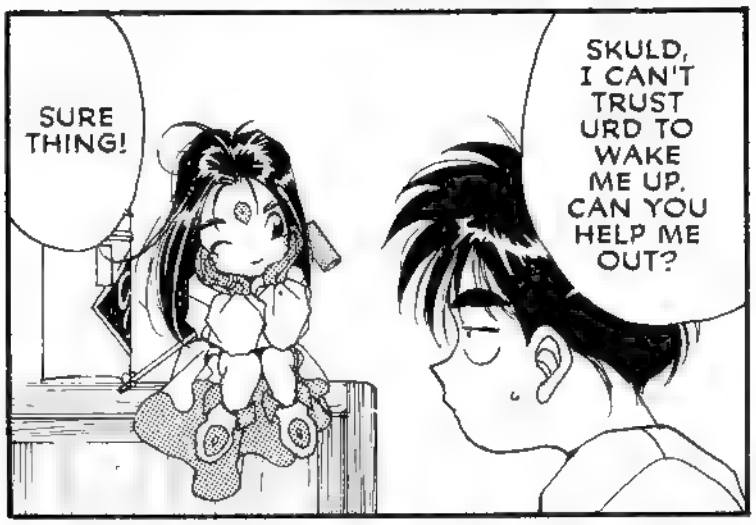
...HA...

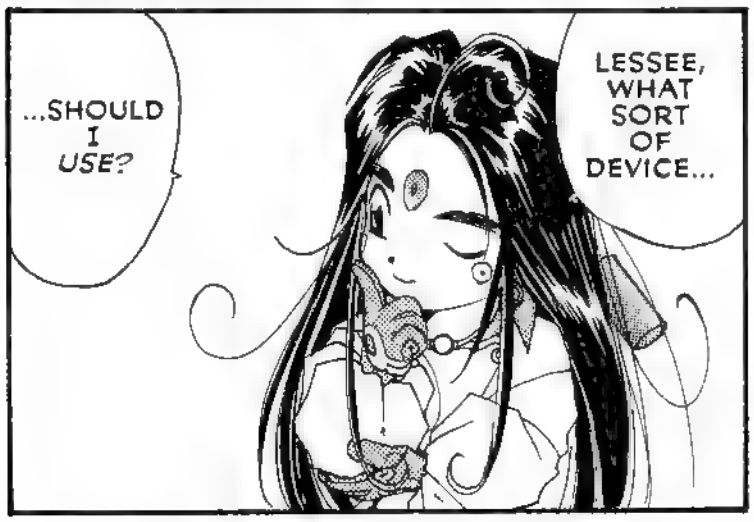
NO MORE TALKING TO MYSELF LIKE AN IDIOT!

THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE LORD OF TERROR TO BE SUMMONED!

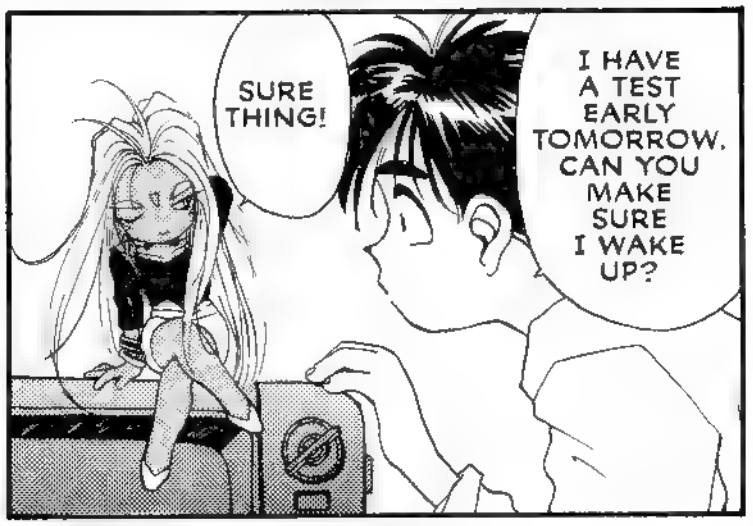
THE ADVENTURES OF MINI-URD

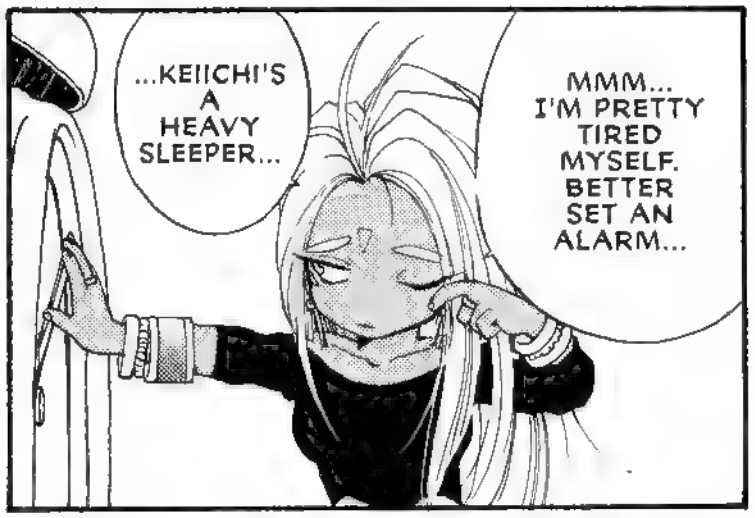
JUST ONE OF THOSE DAYS

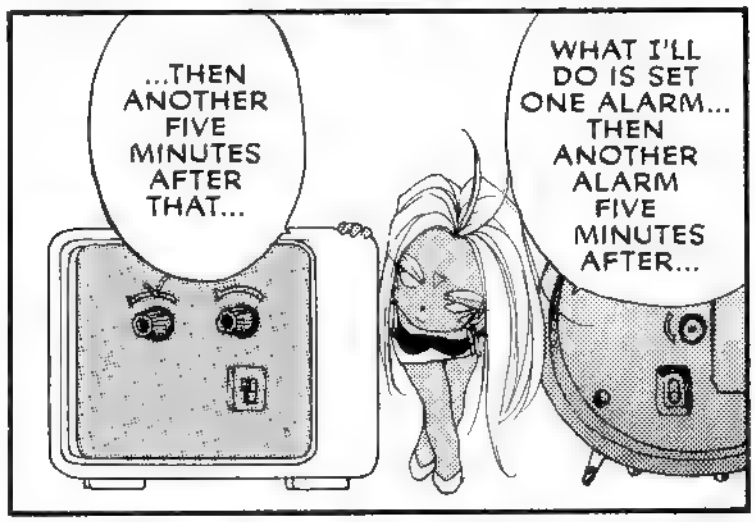


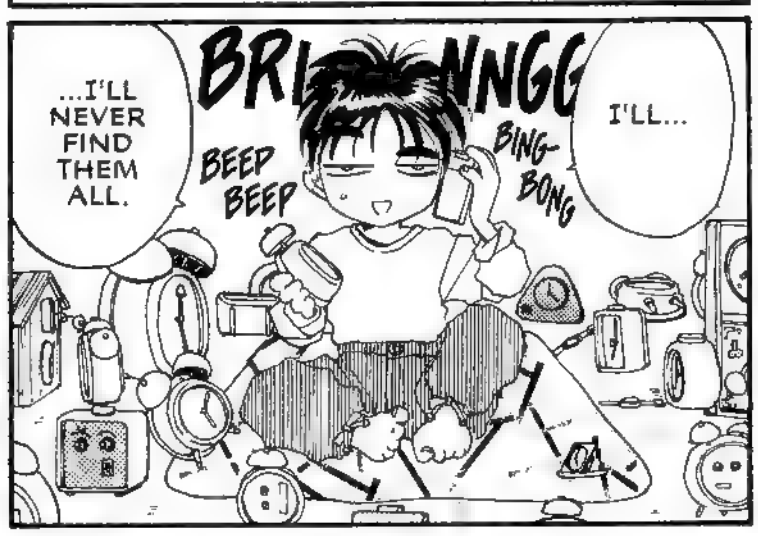


WAKE-UP CALL









CHAPTER 88

Terrible Master Urd

SOON (I STATE AGAIN), YOU SHALL KNEEL BEFORE ME AND BEG FOR MERCY...

HEAR ME (AGAIN) MORTALS AND IMMORTALS ALIKE!

AS STATED A MERE *SIX PAGES AGO*... AN INCANTATION BY MARA HAS HAD THE EFFECT OF *TRANSFORMING* URD INTO THE *"RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE LORD OF TERROR"*...!

SOME KINDA JOKE?

HUH... WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

URD!

OUT OF RESPECT TO BELLDANDY, WE WON'T SAY "AGAIN" AGAIN.

OOPS.

NYA HA HA HA HA HA

AS WE HEAR HER EVIL LAUGH (AGAIN), WE ASK... WILL THE NEW LORD OF TERROR *DESTROY THE WORLD?*

YES... I FIRST LEARNED OF IT...

...DEMONIC BLOOD!

HUH?

"DE-MONIC BLOOD" ...?!

WHAT?

KEIICHI! IT'S... IT'S URD'S...

...THE DAY BEFORE I RECEIVED MY COMMIS-SION...

THANK YOU... MY LORD.

BELLDANDY, AS OF TOMORROW, YOU SHALL BE A GODDESS FIRST CLASS...

YES, SIR?

BEFORE YOU ASSUME THIS RANK, THERE IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW.

I PRE-SUME YOU HAVE HEARD THE NAME...

OF THE *LORD OF TERROR.*

I HAVE, SIR.

IT IS SAID THAT WHEN THE LORD OF TERROR APPEARS UPON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, HUMANITY SHALL DESCEND INTO MAD-NESS.

THE EARTH, WILL ROCK UPON ITS AXIS AND BE RENT ASUNDER. AFTER SEVEN DAYS OF FIRE, ALL SHALL BE DESTROYED.

VERILY, SIR.

WHAT PERHAPS YOU *HAVEN'T* HEARD IS THAT THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE LORD OF TERROR IS--

--YOUR SISTER *URD.*

WHAT ?!

THE BLOOD OF DEMONS RUNS THROUGH HER...

I TELL YOU NOW THAT IF HE SHOULD EVER REAPPEAR YOU MUST INFORM ME IMMEDI-ATELY.

YET...

I SEALED AWAY THE LORD OF TERROR... THAT HE MIGHT SPEND ALL ETERNITY LOCKED IN DARKNESS.

IN TIMES PAST...

I SHALL NOT *HESITATE* TO ACT!!

YES, SIR!

IF THAT DAY COMES...

WH-WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?!

HEY!

"MIS-TRESS."

HEY, I'M NOT YOUR *PERSONAL SERVANT*, MISSY!!

...

WHAAAA

D-D-DON'T YOU LAUGH AT *ME*, URD! I'M A DEMON *FIRST CLASS, UNLIMITED* !!

DON'T GET SO DIS-TRESSED...

HMM... MY VERY OWN PERSONAL SERVANT... JUST AS PROMISED.

THAT'S *"THOU"* TO YOU.

...DID I HAPPEN TO MENTION THAT I'M *IMPRESSED* ?!

FZZAK

!!

AHRAM

OW!

--WHERE'D SHE GET ALL THAT *POWER* ?!

WH--

MHRUD

KNOW YE MY POWER... FOR I SHALL DESTROY EVERY-THING!!

HERE'S A LITTLE PHRASE I'VE BEEN WORKING ON...

uhp

IS IT NOT SAID THE LORD SHALL BE "BRONZE OF SKIN"

COULD COULD IT TRULY BE?!

Gasp!

OKAY SERVANT. LISTEN UP TIME FOR YOUR FIRST COM-MAND

OR WAS THAT JUST "BRAZEN" ...?!?

WHAT ?!

--ISN'T *REALLY* YOUR SISTER ?!

Y-YOU MEAN URD--

...IT'S NOT TRUE THAT WE'RE UNRELATED. WE HAVE DIFFERENT *MOTHERS*...

AND, ANY-WAY...

WELL...

...PER-HAPS SHE DOES KNOW.

YOU MEAN... SKULD DOESN'T *KNOW?*

mrf

SHH! SKULD MIGHT HEAR YOU!

AND SO WE EVER SHALL BE.

...BUT WE ALL HAD THE SAME *FATHER*...

...HE WON'T TREAT POOR URD VERY KINDLY.

I'M AFRAID THAT... JUDGING FROM HIS ATTITUDE WHEN HE SPOKE OF THE LORD OF TERROR...

blurbble

...DON'T YOU HAVE TO TELL... *HIM...?*

I MEAN... ABOUT URD...

...AND WE ALL GREW UP TOGETHER. WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN SISTERS IN OUR HEARTS.

HUH, SIS ?!

SO WHATTA YOU GONNA DO, THEN? *DISOBEY A DIRECT ORDER FROM THE MIGHTY ONE?!*

URD'S OUR SISTER, NO MATTER WHAT.

AND IF *YOU'RE* GONNA DISOBEY ORDERS, *I'M* GONNA DISOBEY ORDERS *TOO!*

I HEARD *EVERY-THING!*

THANKS TO MY HANDY ***LISTENING DEVICE***, "MR. EAR" (pat. pend.)!

owwwwww! HOT HOT HOT!

SHE NEVER LEARNS...

ER... TRUE ENOUGH.

. . . . . .

UM... *HOW?*

EH?

SO LET'S CUT HER DOWN TO SIZE ***TOGETHER !!***

AFTER ALL, THIS IS ***URD*** WE'RE TALKING ABOUT-- THE ULTIMATE ***WALKING DISASTER AREA!***

AW, I WOULDN'T WORRY TOO MUCH. HOW HARD COULD IT BE?

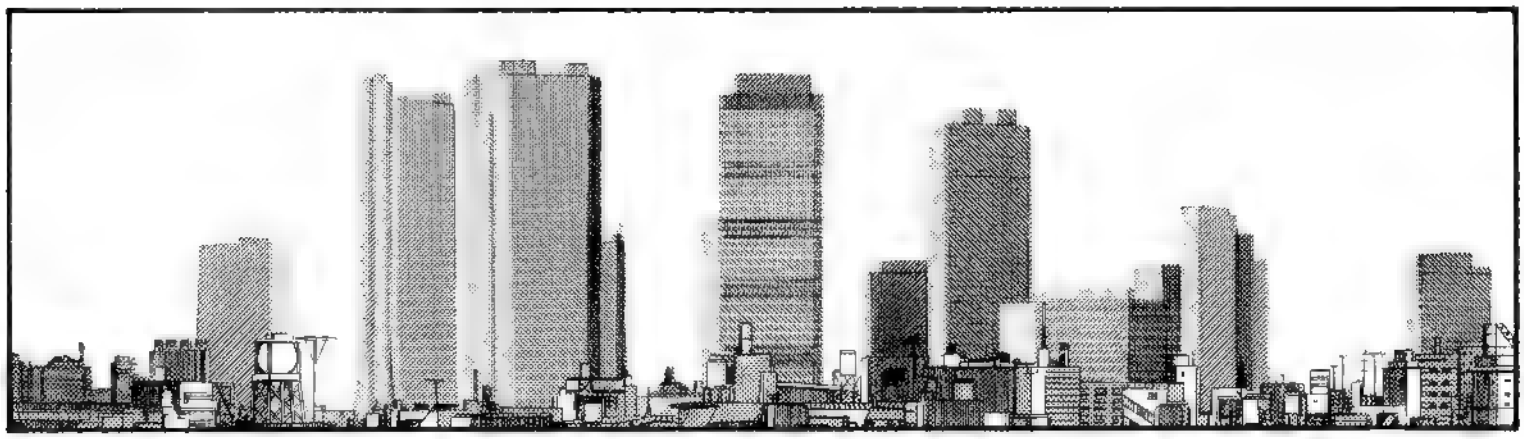
...TO THE *ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION PROGRAM.*

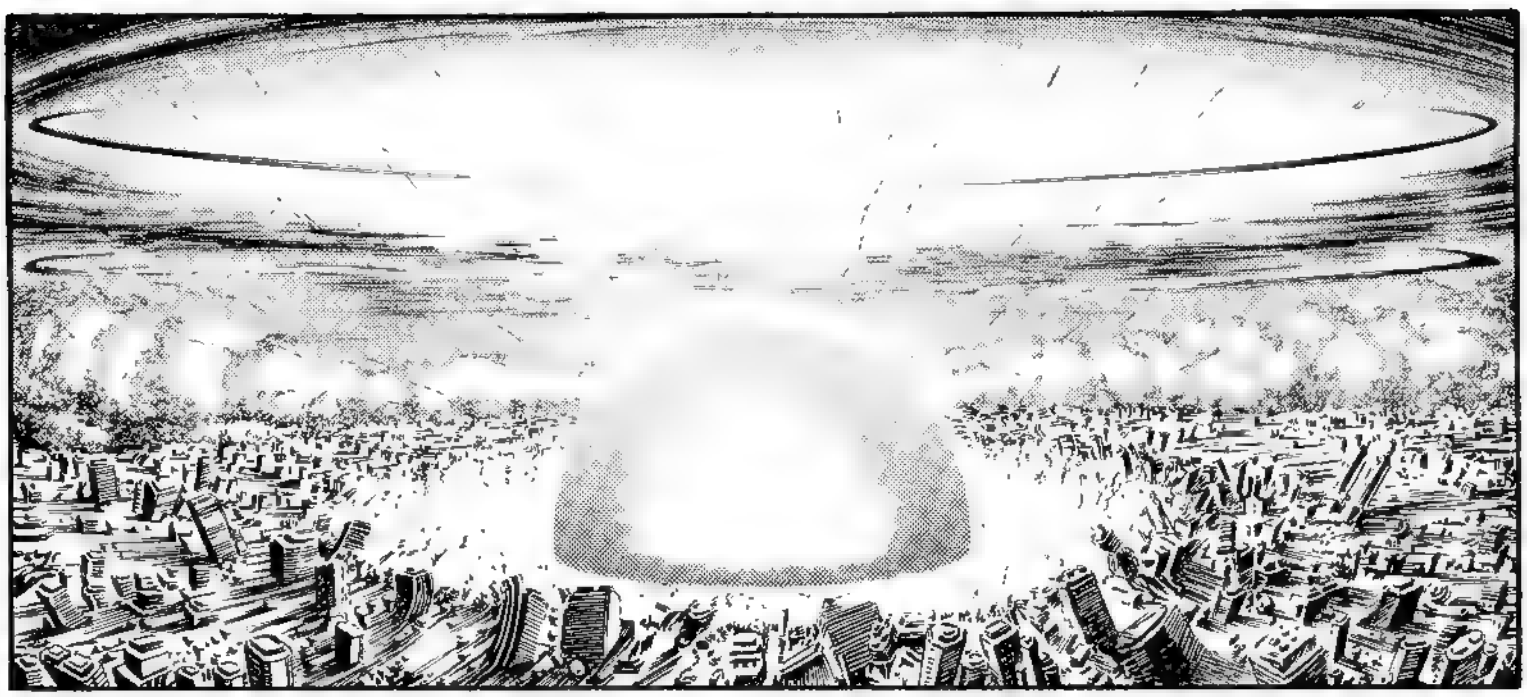
...IT'S *ALSO* SAID THAT UPON HER RETURN, THE LORD OF TERROR WILL BE GIVEN THE PASSWORD TO THE...

BUT ONE THING, *umi*, SORT OF WORRIES ME...

...DESTRUCTION PROGRAM?!

THE... THE ULTIMATE...





THE COMMAND WAS TO "GET ME A BIG SCREEN TV"...

SIGH

NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST IS *SO* COOL. OF COURSE, YOU CAN'T BEAT MORE *CLASSIC* METHODS, LIKE PLAGUE, FAMINE...

DID YOU *SEE* THE SIZE OF THAT FIRE-BALL?!

--AND *YOU'RE* THE SERVANT !!

SEE, THAT'S *JUST* THE KIND OF REASON WHY *I'M* THE MASTER--

DECID-ED?

...HAVE YOU DECIDED YET?

SO, MIS-TRESS...

...DE-STROY THE EARTH!

YES... HOW YOU WILL...

...HOW *PICA-YUNE!*

...HOW PETTY...

WHAT?! YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS

DESTROY THE EARTH? *REALLY,* NOW...

urk

...YOU HAVEN'T DECIDED YET.

IN OTHER WORDS...

ching!

100

ching!

500

SUCH A *CLEVER* SERVANT!

STOP DROPPIN' SPARE CHANGE ON ME!

OWWW! OWWWW!

chiiinnnggggg

EARTH? WHY STOP WITH THE *EARTH?* I'M GONNA DESTROY--

--THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE!!

HM?

BKSOOM

ting tunk

IT'S YOUR TIP.

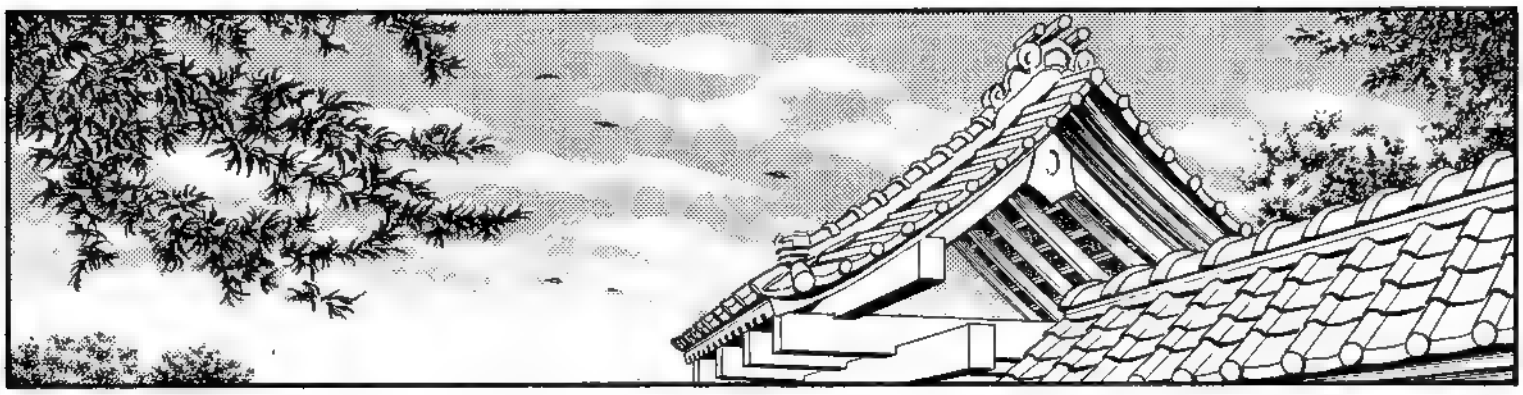
SPARE CHANGE?

...SHE'S RIGHT, THOUGH-- I'VE GOT TO MAKE UP MY MIND.

CURSES!

ARG! ARG! ARG!

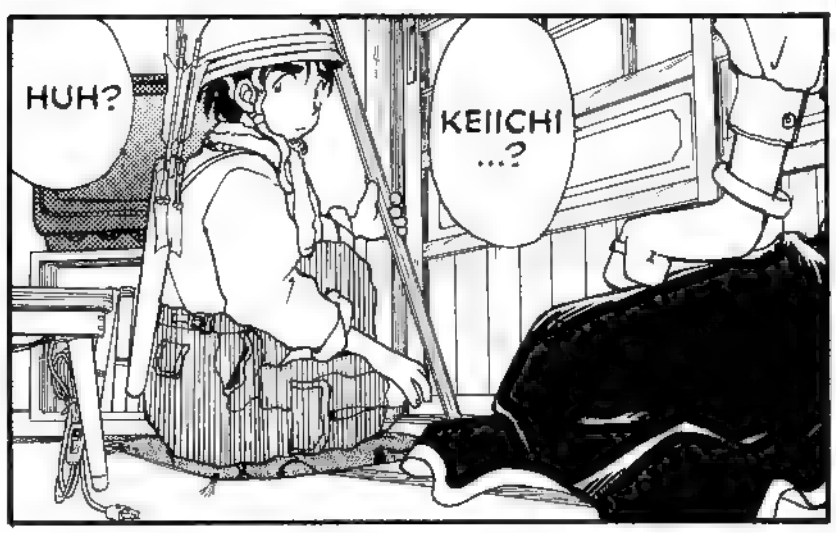
THAT'S IT!!



ALL RIGHT URD... COME AND GET IT.

SHE'S STILL WORKING ON SOME-THING IN YOUR SHOP.
ARE YOU IN FOR A SHOCK!
JUST YOU WAIT, URD!
WHAT'S SKULD UP TO?

HOPE-FULLY SHE'LL SAVE THE EXPLO-SIONS FOR URD...


HUH?
KEIICHI ...?

HERE, HAVE SOME TEA!
ALL THESE GOOD-LUCK CHARMS OUGHT TO HAVE SOME EFFECT...

SHOCK!

KEI-ICHI...

C'MON-- A REAL MAN DOESN'T LEAVE HIS GIRL LIKE THAT.

WHOA! YOU'RE NOT GONNA TELL ME TO RUN AWAY TO SAVE MY OWN SKIN, ARE YOU?

THIS TIME... I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO DEFEAT HER.

IF WORSE COMES TO WORST...

THIS ISN'T THE URD WE USED TO KNOW.

!!

WH-WHAT THE--?!

HELL IS *ME!!*

...WERE YOU GOING TO SAY WHAT THE *HELL?!*

WE'LL START THE DESTRUCTION OF THE UNIVERSE BY CRUSHING *YOUR* CRUMMY LITTLE CORNER OF IT *FLAT!!*

KRASSH!!

YOW!

WHOOSH

...HOW CUTE.

OH--A LUCKY TANUKI STATUE... PROOF AGAINST EVIL...

--DEMON!

TAKE *THIS*, YOU, YOU--

!!

WHOOSH

D-DOOM... DESCEND-ING...

IT D-DOESN'T *WORK!*

IT'S HOPE-LESS! SHE'S TOO POWER-FUL!

THE LORD OF TERROR IS *NOT* AMUSED!!

SKRASH

...DID I MISS ANYTHING? SORRY FOR THE DELAY, GUYS, BUT I'VE GOT SOMETHING ***TOTALLY COOL*** TO SHOW YOU!

WHAT... IS ***THAT ?!***

THAT NOISE SOUNDS KIND OF FAMIL-IAR...

IT IS MY *POWERED EXO-SKELETON*... THE *ATLAS TECH SUPPORT-ER!*

I ADMIT IT *IS* PRETTY COOL...

BRMMBRMM

BRM-M-BB

WH-*WHAT ?!*

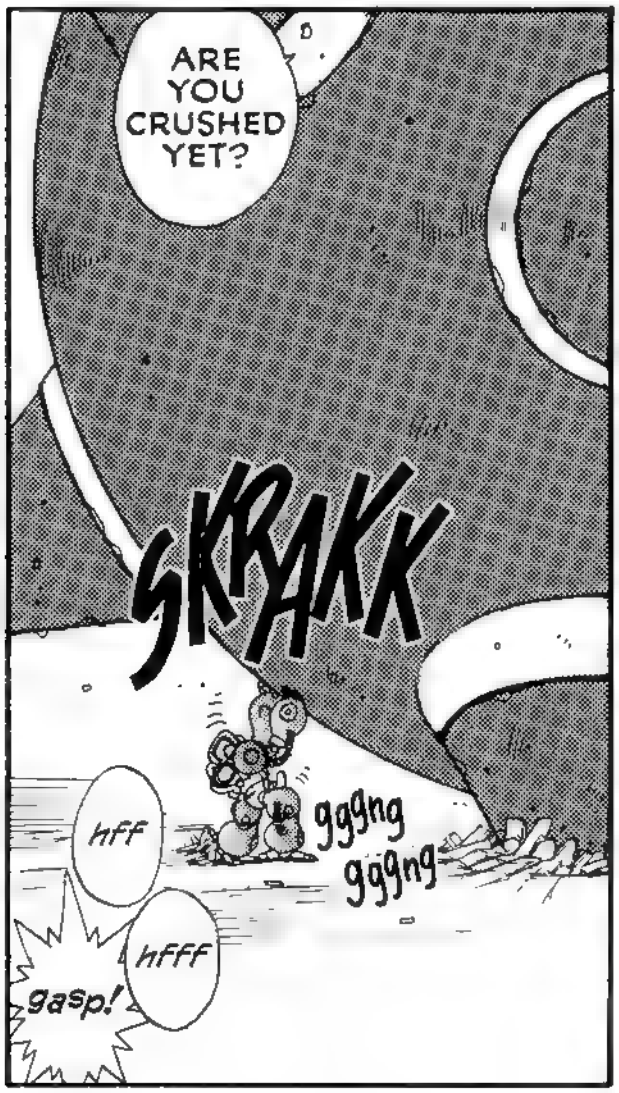
NO BATTERIES, SEE?

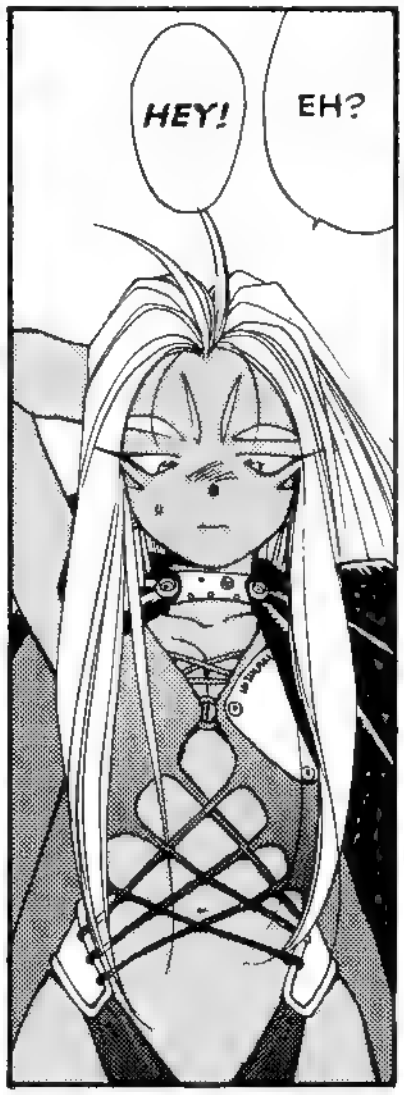
WHY, OF COURSE. IT'S POWERED BY YOUR *MOTOR-CYCLE ENGINE!*

NO WHINING! FOR-WARD TO *BATTLE!*

WHOOSH

SWING


ARE YOU CRUSHED YET?
SKRAKK
hff
gggng
gggng
hffff
gasp!


HEY!
EH?

WOW! I NEVER KNEW MY BEEMER WAS SO POWERFUL!

hee hee hee
IT TICK-LES!
KNAM
TH
LOOK OUT, KEIICHI!
FEEAK!
FORTY-EIGHT !!
HMM... WHAT WAS YOUR BIKE AGAIN... ABOUT FIFTY HORSE-POWER?
BABELT
TH-THE... THE SHAKING...
BOLTS... COMING LOOSE...
LOOSEN HER BOLTS !!
BELL-DANDY!! THE BOLTS!!
...THAT'S IT!!
huh...

AND SO...

FUN FACT: BOLTS AND SCREWS NORMALLY STAY TIGHTENED DUE TO FRICTION WITH A SURFACE. BELLDANDY REDUCED THE COEFFICIENT OF FRICTION OF BOTH SURFACES TO ZERO...

...AND THEN APPLIED A COUNTER-CLOCKWISE TORQUE TO THE HEAD OF THE BOLTS.

SIMPLE, REALLY.

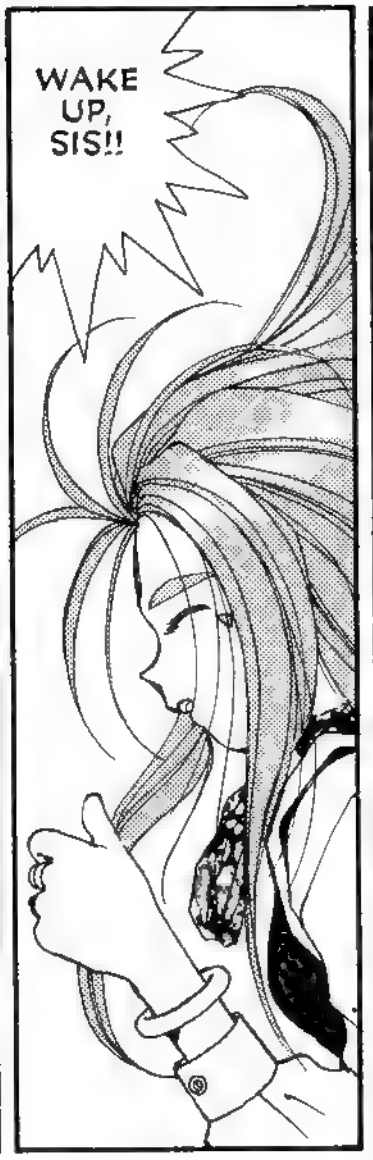
Turn, Fasteners, and Fly! Free Yourselves, One and All!!

Y-YES!

KABOOOOM!!

WHUDD
whewww...
...GOOD THING I PAY ATTEN-TION IN CLASS.

THAT'S WEIRD... URD'S GONE.
MAYBE... NO WAY!


WAKE UP, SIS!!

BIG SISTER!
KYAAA!
Shlmp

I'VE BEEN *WAITING* FOR THIS MOMENT !!

MARA! WHAT SHOULD I--

HEH HEH *HEH* !!

USED UP HER L'IL OL' *POWER,* DID SHE?!

NO!! *GET AWAY FROM HER* !!

ZZAK

...I'LL ELIMINATE OUR *ONLY OBSTACLE* !!

ZZAK !!

IF I CAN SEAL UP BELL-DANDY'S *POWER...*

S...
SIS..?
...
HA HA HA HA
YOUR POWER IS IN MY HANDS !!
NYA HA HA!! AT LONG LAST!
YOU SCREWED UP AND TRAPPED *HIM* INSTEAD, DID YOU?
SO.

SOBBBB!

MAY AS WELL KEEP HIM LOCKED UP, TOO...

IT'S NOT AS IF THEY LOOK ALIKE.

...MAY YOU REMAIN SAFE AND SOUND.

KEIICHI...

...NOW I'M MAD.

ALL RIGHT...

?

BRRIINNGG

BRRIINNGG

BRRIINNGG

CHAPTER 36

The Ultimate Destruction Program

YOU MAY HAVE SEEN RECENTLY THAT WHILE ATTEMPTING TO SAVE BELLDANDY, KEIICHI HAS ***FALLEN INTO URD'S HANDS!***

CAN BELLDANDY RESCUE KEIICHI? AND WHAT OF THE SOMEWHAT OMINOUS-SOUNDING ***"ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION PROGRAM"...?!***

S--

--SORRY, SKULD...

THE *PHONE!*

BIG SIS! HEY, *SIS!*

OH!

KEIICHI...

BRRINNGG

BRRINNGG

I'VE GOT TO PULL MYSELF TOGETH-ER...

HELLO, MORI-SATO RESI-DENCE...

I'M SUR-PRISED IT'S STILL IN ONE PIECE.

heh-heh

YOU BETTER GET CLEAR-- I'M GONNA DIG IT OUT WITH AN EXPLO-SION.

BRRINNGG

EEK!!

BKOOM

Y-YES, MY LORD?!

WE HAVE REGISTERED A MAJOR GRAVITA-TIONAL PULSE UP IN HEAVEN.

IT WOULD SEEM WHAT I FEARED HAS COME TO PASS.

...HAS COME BACK TO LIFE.

IT APPEARS THAT THE LORD OF TERROR...

"STRIKE HER DOWN" ...?!

WE WILL NOT SPEAK OF IT FOR NOW.

F-FORGIVE ME MY LORD...I DISOBEYED YOUR ORDER TO CONTACT YOU...

BUT...

...AS FOR URD--

AND YOUR POWER IS NOT GREAT ENOUGH TO AID IN THIS MATTER.

KSSSH

--I SHALL STRIKE HER DOWN WITH MY OWN HAND!!

...I SHALL DESTROY THE ULTIMATE DESTRUC-TION PROGRAM *MYSELF!*

ON MY HONOR AND MY SOUL, I *SWEAR IT!!*

THEN...

...IF I HAVE TO...

SURELY THERE *MUST* BE SOME WAY TO CURE HER...!

BUT... BUT MY *LORD*... URD ISN'T *TRULY* EVIL!

CHINGG!

BELLDANDY! I COMMAND YOU--

I MEAN... SHE'S SO STRONG NOW...

GEE, SIS... DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN STAND UP TO URD?

WOW ...!

NO...I CAN'T POSSIBLY STAND UP TO HER AS I AM NOW.

IT'S TRUE... URD SHOWED US ONLY A FRACTION OF WHAT SHE'S CAPABLE OF AS THE LORD OF TERROR.

FOR I MUST...

FORGIVE ME, MY LORD...

SKULD, I'LL NEED YOUR HELP.

...BREAK THE *SEAL*.

...I MUST...

...PLEASE. I NEED YOUR HELP.

SKULD...

YOU'LL LOSE YOUR LICENSE-- OR *WORSE* !!

...THAT'S A *SERIOUS* CRIME!!

B-BUT SIS, IF YOU BREAK YOUR SEAL WITHOUT PERMIS-SION...I MEAN...

BACK AT URD'S LAIR...

...THE *DESTRUC-TION OF THE ~~EARTH!!~~ UNIVERSE !!*

FOR YOU SHALL WITNESS FROM THIS VANTAGE...

...YOU'RE VERY LUCKY.

IN A WAY...

...BUT I GUESS YOU'RE BETTER THAN NOTHING, HONEY.

YOU DON'T MAKE *MUCH* OF A HOS-TAGE...

SWSHH

Why'd I open my mouth ...?

S-she... she doesn't know!

SORRY, BOSS-- NEVER HEARD OF IT.

YO, SERVANT! WHAT'S THIS "ULTIMATE DESTRUC-TION PROGRAM" THINGIE?

WHAT'S THAT?

"ULTIMATE DESTRUC-TION PRO-GRAM" ...?

huh?

NOT THE *ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION PROGRAM--!?!*

D-DRILL ?!

WELL, THEN... LET'S DRILL INTO SONNY-BOY'S BRAIN HERE AND FIND OUT.

HURTS JUST THE SAME, THOUGH!

OH, IT'S JUST A METAPHOR. I'LL USE MAGIC.

FEAR

SUCH RESISTANCE... I CAN'T GET ANYTHING OUT OF HIM...!

I'LL NEVER TELL !!

HIS HIDDEN MENTAL POWERS MUST BE GREAT!

NOW LAUNCHING ULTIMATE DESTRUC-TION PROGRAM.

USER LORD OF TERROR AUTHENTI-CATED.

!!

YOU IDIOT!

ACTUALLY, ALL I KNOW IS THE NAME. I NEVER ASKED WHAT IT ACTUALLY WAS.

PASS-WORD/ VOICE-PRINT MATCH.

kachik

Yawn

DAMN... I USED UP A LOTTA ENERGY FOR NOTHING...

LESSON 1...

HELLO. WELCOME TO THE ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION PROGRAM TUTORIAL.

FZZK

THANK YOU, SKULD.

I'LL STICK WITH YOU TO THE BITTER END!

HEY, A PROMISE IS A PROMISE, SIS.

FZZZZK

THERE-- THAT SHOULD DO IT.

...Return to Me in the Form of Holy Light!!

...A DIVINE SURGE PROTECTOR.

THE EARRING PREVENTS DANGER-OUS POWER SPIKES FROM OCCUR-RING...

...DE-SIGNED TO RESTRICT HER POWER.

IN BELL-DANDY'S LEFT EAR IS A SPECIAL SEAL EAR-RING...

....

A GODDESS FIRST CLASS POSSESSES ENOUGH POWER TO DESTROY THE EARTH*, IF IT IS NOT CONTROLLED PROPERLY.

O Latent Strength, Now Sealed...

NOTE: JUST THE EARTH, NOT THE UNIVERSE

...GROWING *BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER* AROUND BELL-DANDY!

THE *GLOW*...

SPEAK

WHOOM

BELL-DANDY !!

YOU BROKE THE SEAL !!
YOU-- YOU DID IT!

THERE'S NOWHERE YOU CAN HIDE... NOT EVEN IN THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE!!

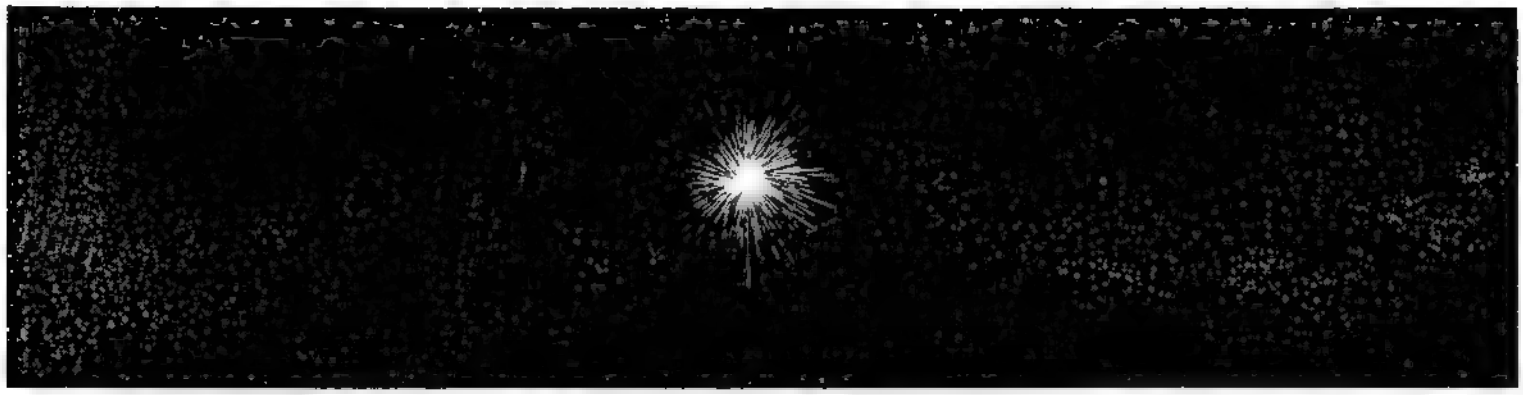
...EVERY TIME SHE USES **HER** POWER, SHE GENERATES A GRAVITATIONAL PULSE!

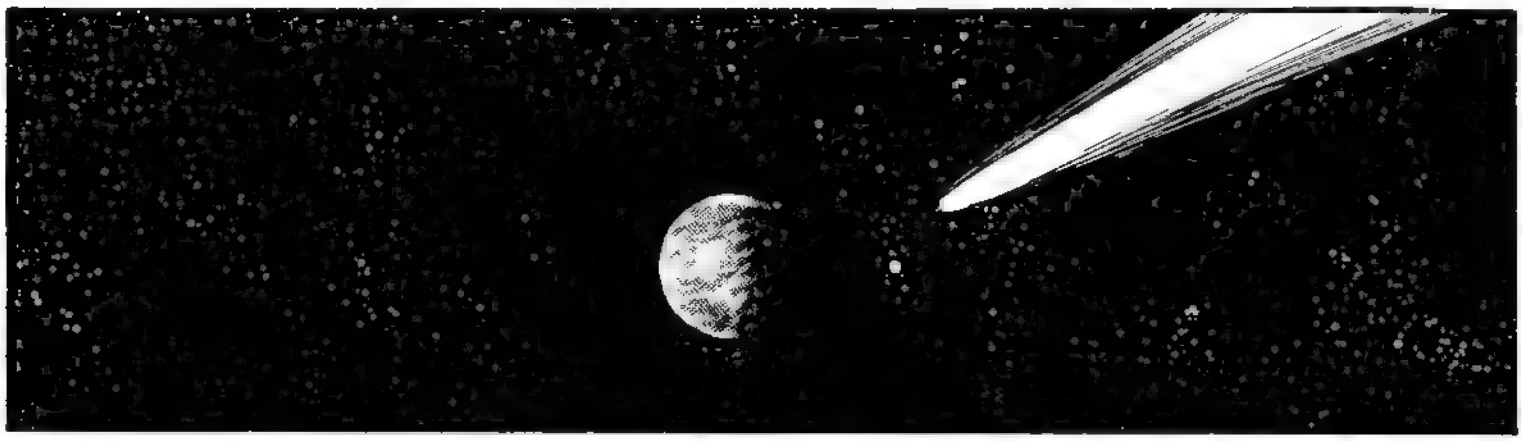
BUT...

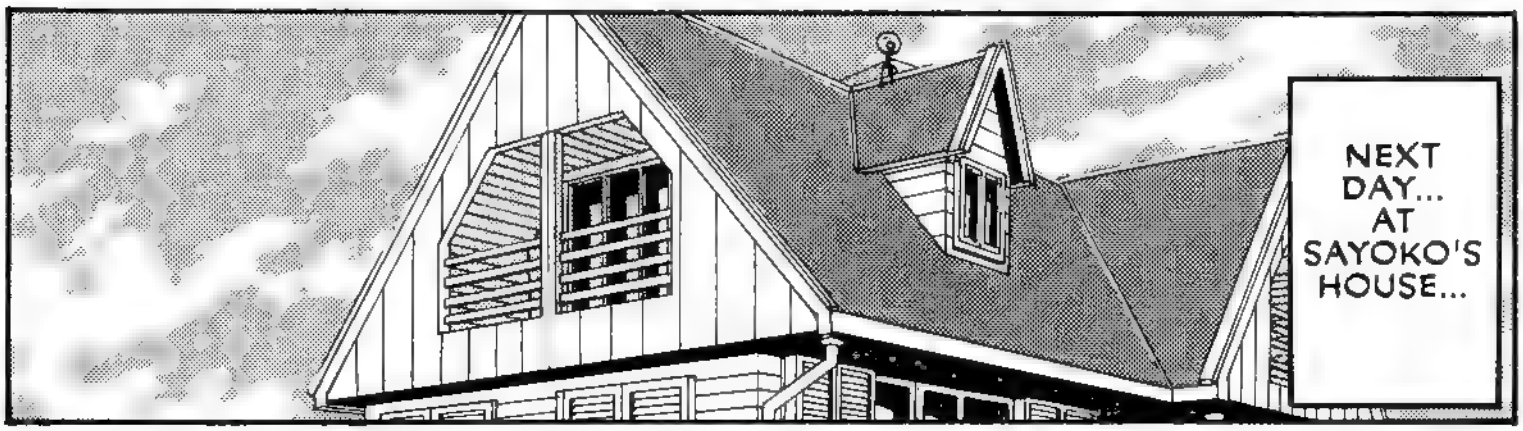
I WILL FIND YOU, URD!!

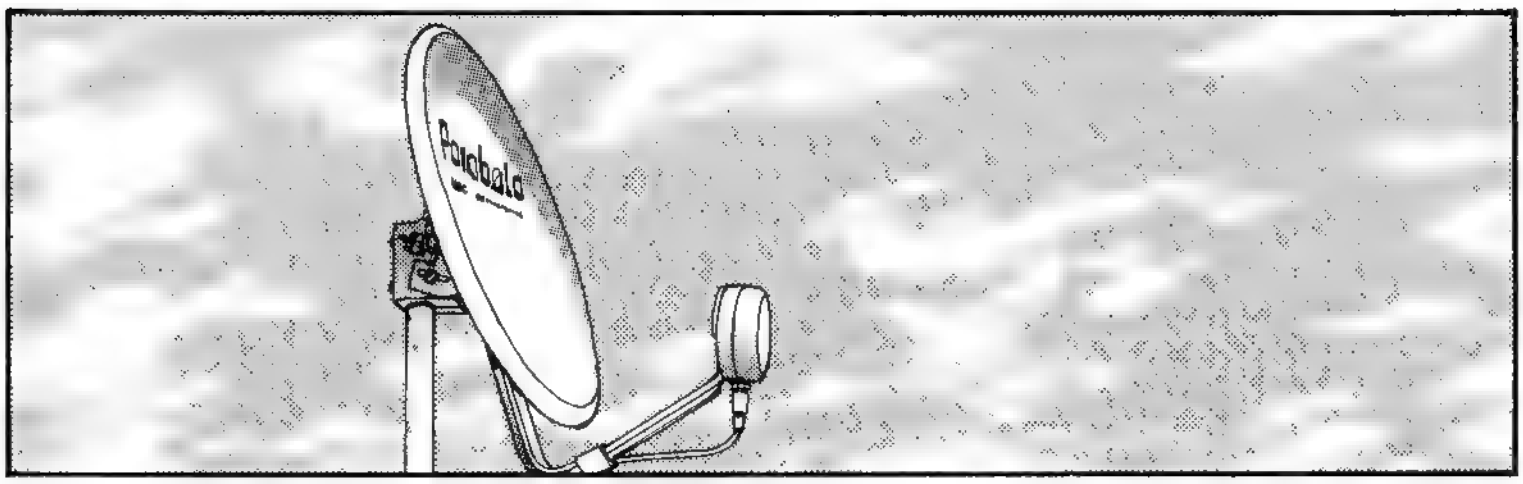
...I CAN'T TELL WHERE URD IS HIDING... HER SIGNAL'S BEEN JAMMED SOMEHOW.

EVEN WITH MY NEW STRENGTH...






NEXT DAY... AT SAYOKO'S HOUSE...


Parabola

THE TOYOTA HAS A BROKEN DRIVE SHAFT NOW...

klik

KSSHHH

A CAR RACE, HUH? ...FUNNY HOW THAT REMINDS ME OF MORISATO...

KSSH

HEY, WHAT THE HELL ?!

I OUGHTA GO BACK TO CABLE...

SATELLITE MUSTA BROKE DOWN AGAIN.

DAMN.

VERY GOOD. LESSON 1 COMPLETE.

HOW COME I GOTTA HOLD THIS STUPID THING?

NOW TRY TO DROP EXACTLY FIFTY-TWO METEORITES.

SO-- HOW'S *THAT* FOR A START?

ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN AT THE MAUNA KEA OBSERVATORY...

A GIANT METEOR SHOWER WAS OBSERVED ACROSS THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE EARLY THIS MORNING....

--EXCEPT THE AUTHORIZED LORD OF TERROR.

YOU ARE REMINDED THIS PROGRAM IS **PASSWORD PROTECTED** TO PREVENT ITS USE BY ANYONE--

...THIS ENTIRE WORLD SHALL MEET ITS END. WE HOPE YOU'RE ENJOYING USING THE **ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION PROGRAM.**

WHEN ALL OF THE DESIGNATED PROCESSES ARE EXECUTED...

WHOOSH

WORLD! SOLAR SYSTEM! GALAXY! *UNIVERSE* !!

sigh WHY DOESN'T ANYONE *LISTEN?*

HAA HA HA!

Y-YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!! YOU'D DESTROY THE *WHOLE WORLD* ?!

NOW THEY'RE LAUGHING IN SYNC...

HAA HA HA!

THEY ALL SEEMED TO BURN UP TOO QUICKLY...

...MOST OF THE METEOR-ITES DISINTE-GRATED IN THE UPPER ATMOS-PHERE...

IT'S STRANGE... THOSE METEORS DID LESS DAMAGE THAN I EXPECTED.

ONCE YOU GET THERE... HOW ARE YOU GONNA RETURN URD TO NORMAL?

BUT... BUT, *SIS!*

...I KNOW WHERE YOU *ARE* NOW, URD!!

KEIICHI!! I'M COMING TO RESCUE YOU!

O Spirits of Air and Fire Dwelling in the Sky...

Burn, Burn the Stones Falling Forth From Cold Space...

...SHALL RETURN TO EARTH THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF AN ANCIENT AND EVIL *URN.*

IT IS WRITTEN THAT THE LORD OF TERROR...

AND THAT MEANS--

?!?

THE SKY--?!

WAIT!

THE NATIONAL WEATHER BUREAU HAS NOT YET MADE A STATEMENT REGARDING THE CAUSE, BUT ADVISED CITIZENS--

...NO EXPLA-NATION AS YET FOR THE SUDDEN DARKNESS ACROSS JAPAN.

A MIR-ROR!

IT'S BELL-DANDY !!

BUT YOU MUST HELP ME!

FIND A MIRROR!

A MIRROR ...?

KEI-ICHI!

KEI-ICHI!

?

I'M ON MY WAY TO SAVE YOU.

LESSON 2 IS COMPLETE. CONGRATU-LATIONS.

GOOD, GOOD!! EXCELLENT !!

--WE'RE NOW GETTING A REPORT THAT...

!!

SHE CAN'T TELEPORT HERE WITHOUT ONE--

--*WAIT!* MY BMW KEYCHAIN... THE BACK'S *CHROME-PLATED!*

KLAK TAK

UM... OOPS...

SHE'S...

SHING

...THERE IT IS!!

HUH??

FEAR

NOW'S MY CHANCE !!

FEAR

IF THE LORD OF TERROR REQUIRES THE MEDIUM OF THAT URN--

--THEN I CAN BREAK THE SPELL BY DESTROY-ING IT!!

FEAR

FEAR

W-
WHAT?!
YOU...
YOU
FOOL--

!!

WHA
--?!

SKRAAK

--WILL FAZE THE LORD OF...

YOU THINK SOME-THING LIKE *THAT--*

SSHH

AND NOW THAT URN WILL BREAK, TOO.

YES.

--YOU BROKE YOUR SEAL, DIDN'T YOU?!

YOU'RE STILL MY ONE AND ONLY BIG SISTER!

COME ON, URD-- LET'S GO HOME!

...AND *WITH* IT... THAT EVIL SPELL UPON YOU!

?!

KRAKK

JUST AS IT WAS FORE-TOLD!

HEH-HEH-HEH... PERFECT!

...BY A GODDESS OF GOOD AND PURITY.

--WHICH DEMANDS THAT I BE DE-STROYED...

KRAKK

WHAT YOU HAVE DONE GUARANTEES THE FINAL STEP OF THE PROCESS--

!!

...THE DETECTION OF THE GRAVITATIONAL PULSE, YOUR ARRIVAL HERE-- EVERYTHING.

EVERY-THING WAS WRITTEN IN THE PROGRAM CODE...

...IS NOW LINKED... TO THE LORD OF... TERROR HERSELF...

THE ULTIMATE... DESTRUC-TION... PROGRAM...

KRA K

SKRAK

THIS IS MY TRUE MOMENT OF AWAKEN-ING...

WAIT !!

BUT... NO!!

FU

...WAS THAT URD'S TRUE SPIRIT JUST NOW?!

...BELL-DANDY ...!

FSSH

URD ?!

KEIICHI !!

YAA

EEEYAAA!!!

KOOSHI

I JUST WISH YOU'D CALLED ME HERE SOONER.

THEN MAYBE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO GO THROUGH ALL OF THIS.

I'M SORRY...

...NOW I HAVE A REASON FOR HOPE.

BUT...

NOW I BELIEVE WE *CAN* GET BACK THE REAL URD.

eh?

YOU DO?

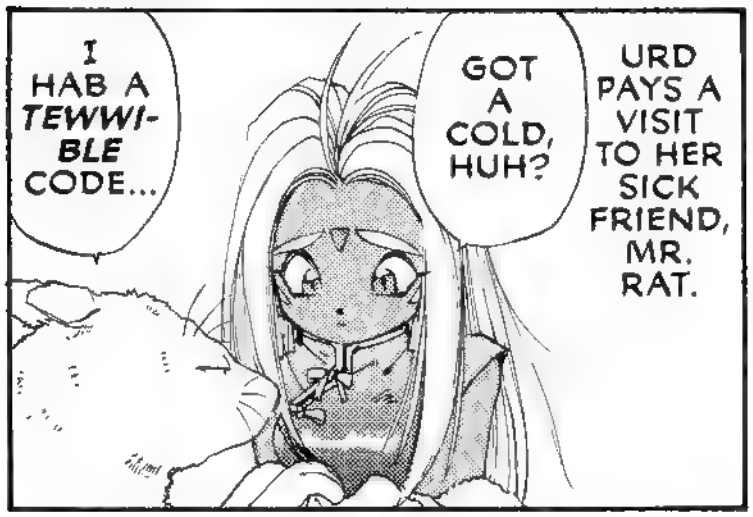
RMBB RMBBLL

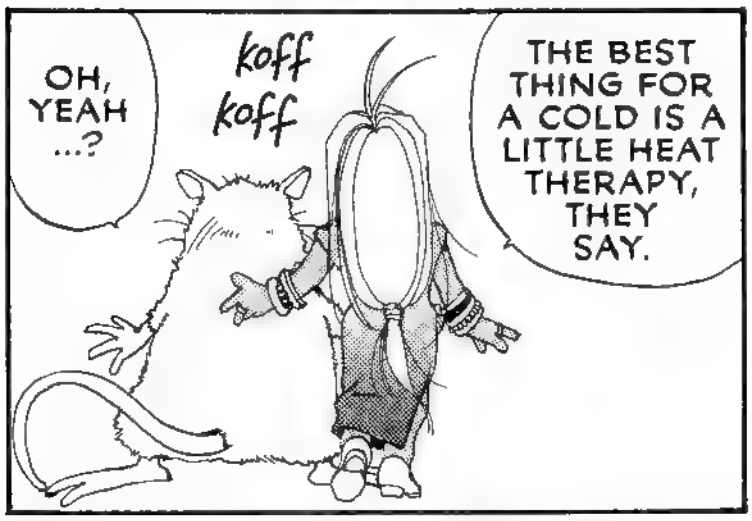
...WE MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE...

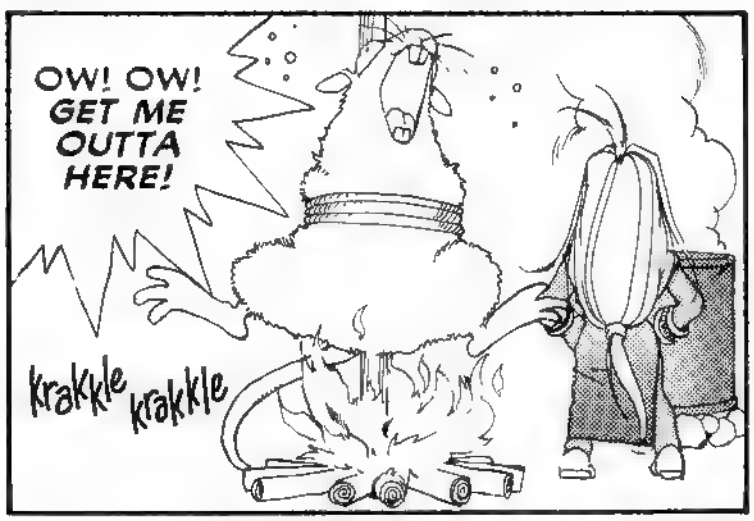
BE-CAUSE *I* FEEL...

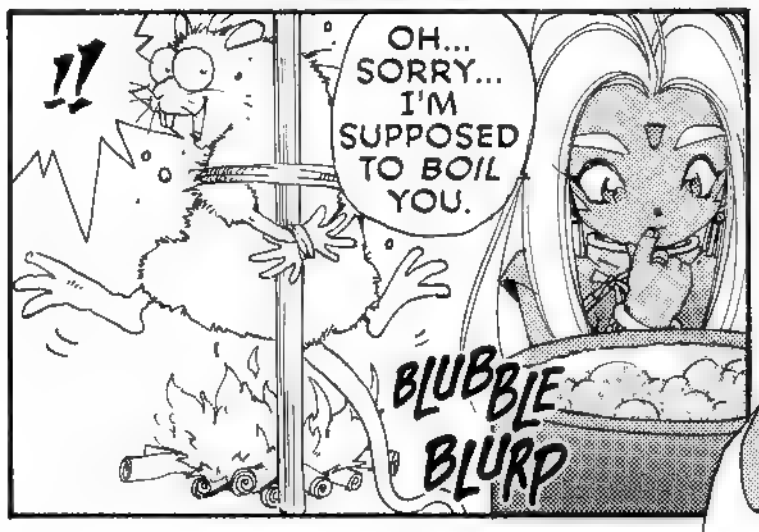
THE ADVENTURES OF MINI URD

HEALTH CARE



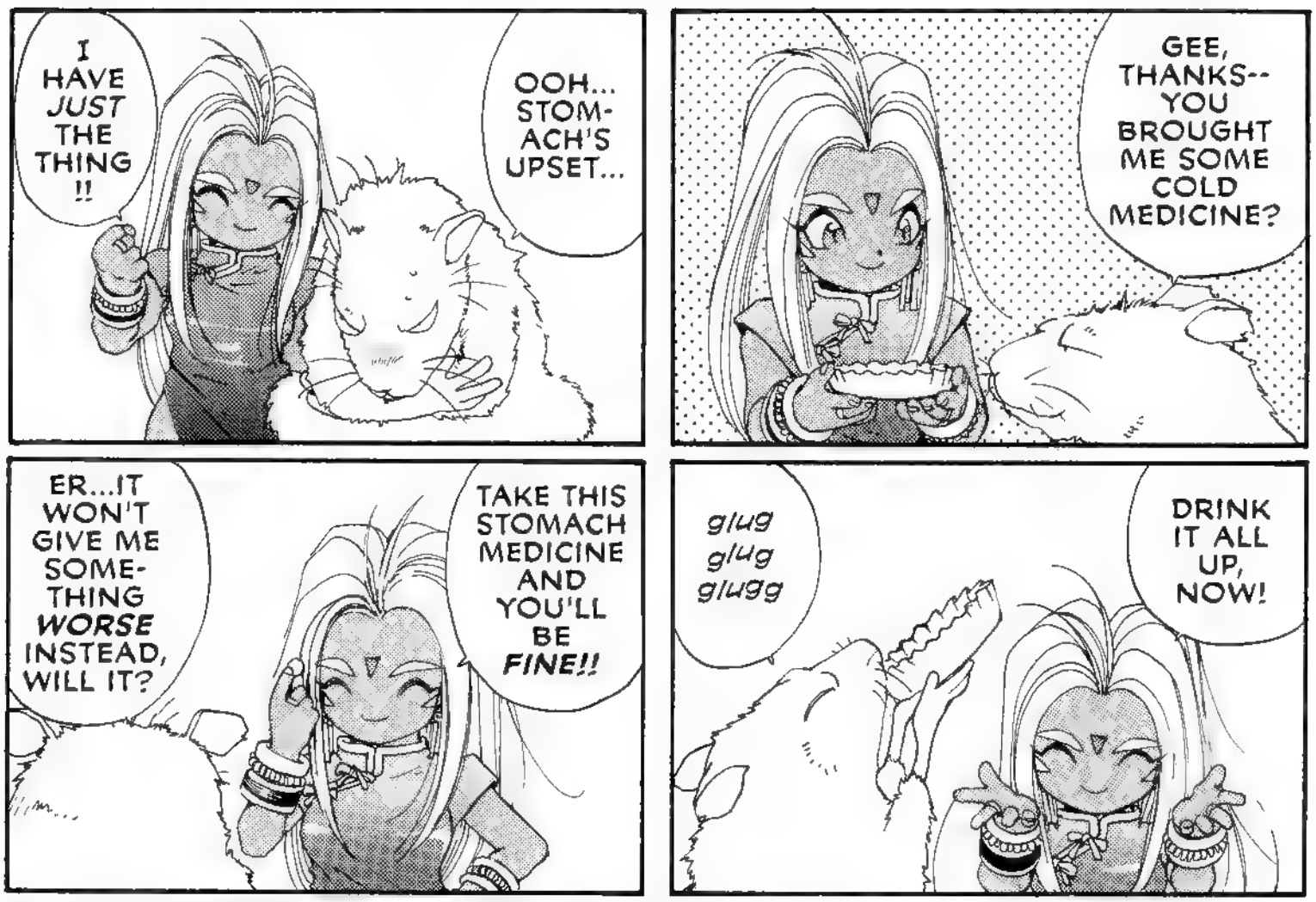






STOMACH MEDICINE

COLD MEDICINE


I HAVE *JUST* THE THING !!
OOH... STOM-ACH'S UPSET...
GEE, THANKS-- YOU BROUGHT ME SOME COLD MEDICINE?
ER...IT WON'T GIVE ME SOME-THING ***WORSE*** INSTEAD, WILL IT?
TAKE THIS STOMACH MEDICINE AND YOU'LL BE ***FINE!!***
glug glug glugg
DRINK IT ALL UP, NOW!
gulp
YOU'LL FEEL TOTALLY DIFFERENT... ***TRUST*** ME!
NO, NO!
SEE? YOUR FEVER'S GOING DOWN ALREADY!
...!
YOU'RE NOT STILL UPSET, ARE YOU?
SEE? NOW YOU *ARE* A STOM-ACH!
h- *help* me...
ALONG WITH YOUR HEART RATE, BLOOD PRESSURE, RESPIRA-TION...

THE GREAT CRICKET RACE

BOY, I'M *NEVER* GOING TO GET THAT HOUR BACK.

BUT *HEY--*

--I'M GOIN' TO THE CRICKET RACES!

Cricket Race #1
WIN
PLACE
SHOW

...HOP!

ON YOUR MARKS... GET SET...

CHAK

byEEEEYAA!

byoingg byoingg

GROSS!

THE GREAT SLUG RACE

GO, SLUGS, GO!!

AND THEY'RE *OFF!!*

glip glip glip glip glip glip

...MAYBE I'LL JUST TAKE A LITTLE NAP.

TEN MIN-UTES LATER

IS THE RACE OVER?

ONE HOUR LATER

I CAN'T TELL YOU *APART!*

HEY, WHICH ONE OF YOU *WON?*

glip

glip glip glip glip

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OH MY GODDESS! Vol. 5
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Enchantress returns with that which it prizes most, fan commentary and art! Before we get into the visual, we'll start with a textual analysis in depth from a reader in Vol. 3. You may wish to play "The Sounds of Science" off the Beastie Boys' *Paul's Boutique* while perusing the letter.

I've been enjoying *OMG!* greatly. I plan to buy the complete set as it becomes available in the "unflopped" versions. I've read the complete series from sources best left unnamed (but which should be obvious), and I find your comments on the text to be fascinating. I thought I'd have some fun and add to the pot.

45.5: Laplace's demon in no way resembles Laplace, who (according to the portrait in the Wikipedia article) looked about as one would imagine a man would look who was named Pierre-Simon, Marquis de Laplace. What is interesting about this particular demon is not so much that Laplace himself never thought him up (he was a creation of later biographers), but that unlike Maxwell's demon, his job is not actually to influence the operation of the universe in a bounded space, but to predict the future course of the entire universe. In a universe like Belldandy's, where Heaven runs the whole works using a giant computer, this is conceivable, and also explains the demon's haughty attitude. He's been utterly crushed in our own universe by such developments as quantum mechanics and relativity.

This demon expresses Laplace's view of an exactly predictable Newtonian universe, where, if the exact energy and trajectory of every body in the universe were known simultaneously, the entire future history of the universe could be computed exactly, for all eternity. Although it was originally put forward that the irreversibility of the law of entropy in thermodynamics contradicted this notion, in fact this is not the case, because thermodynamics only refers to a statistical approximation of a physical system which could still, if sufficient information were available, be predicted exactly. The rigid unobservability of position and momentum posited by the Heisenberg uncertainty principle, however, pretty much knocks Mr. Fierce Moustachios, here, into the soup.

121.2: Similarly, Maxwell's demon hardly resembles James Clerk Maxwell, except insofar as both beings have beards.

Two points here: First, Maxwell's demon reverses entropy, but he doesn't actually add heat to a system. Therefore, although a very few molecules would be at the extreme end of the thermal distribution, once they were out of the room (and, there being very few of them, you'd get nothing like a jet exhaust), the rest of the molecules would be too cold to move a teaspoon, let alone a broom. In the original experiment, old Max's door gets

roasty-toasty on one side, all right, but the other side gets correspondingly cold.

No, what's going on here is something quite different. In Max's original room, the air molecules aren't redirected at all, and no new ones are allowed in. It's just that as hot ones pass through the door in one direction, hot ones coming the other way have the door slammed in their cute little molecular faces. Only cold ones, moving much more slowly, are allowed to saunter in from the other direction. Stuck in the back of Bell-chan's broom, old Max has been handed quite a different job. Which is fine. Goddesses do get to rewrite job descriptions. No, Max's new job is to slam the door on hot air molecules moving toward the head of the broom, and make them bounce backward, while allowing hot molecules already going in that direction to proceed. When he slams the door in the faces of those forward-rushing molecules, though, he's slamming it very, very hard. He must be. The air jet coming out the back is far, far hotter than normal air temperature. Sure, a very, very few molecules are that hot already . . . but only a vanishingly small number of them. Suddenly, there are lots and lots: enough to make a jet. They're getting whacked.

I predict one very, very tired demon at the other end.

162.4: This dollface bears all the hallmarks of a rendering of a real person. This is not a manga character. It would be interesting to find out, someday, just who Fujishima-san had in mind here.

169.4: Mr. Sleepy Demon, I'm morally certain, is one of Hieronymous Bosch's creations, but I cannot now find the painting in which he appears. If any of the artistic types at Del Rey know, I'd love to hear. He surely looks familiar.

174.2: That's a GPS satellite, all right. Looks like one of the old Block I models. We're launching Block IIR now (I work for the company that invented the whole notion of GPS in the first place—The Aerospace Corporation).

The implication here is that she's asking the satellite for their position. Well, there are a few puzzling things about that. First of all, the GPS constellation doesn't receive anything from its users. Only the GPS ground segment—the GPS satellite control network—talks up to the satellites, and that's only to tell them what their own positions are, so they can relay that information as part of the GPS navigation signal. They're not prepared to discuss anything else, but then, we've all seen that Bell-chan can be quite persuasive.

Possibly they were singing to each other. GPS satellites sing a song, you know. It's a long, complex melody called a chipping code. They sing quite softly . . . so softly that they can't, in fact, be heard. But, if you know the song, you can still tell that they're singing, and where they are in their song. This sort of thing would be right up Bell-chan's alley.

Imagine a roomful of people, all talking. In fact, imagine a typical publishing party, where you can't even hear yourself think. One person, though, isn't talking. He's clapping, in a corner, at a constant rate. If you know he's there, and if you know how fast he's clapping, you can, just barely, pick him out of the noise, even though, if he were talking, you wouldn't be able to hear a word.

That's how GPS works. Each receiver knows the GPS "song", and each GPS receiver picks out the songs of the GPS satellites from signals that are all below the "noise floor". If we were listening for them without knowing what the signal was, we wouldn't be able to detect it. But because we know the "song", we can correlate it out of the noise.

Every so often, the satellites will change one of the "notes". That collection of miss-

ing "notes" is the actual GPS signal. In that signal, they speak sentences. Each satellite has three atomic clocks on board. Part of the signal is the current time, according to the best clock on board. The rest of the signal carries the "orbital elements" of the satellite, that is, its ephemeris: what size and shape its orbit is. Given those elements, and the current time, you know where the satellite is in relation to the earth.

Which of course does you little good. You yourself don't have an atomic clock. Well, OK, admit that maybe Bell-chan does. The difference in time between the satellite's clock and your own clock tells you how far away the satellite is. The satellite's signal tells you where the satellite is. Given those two facts, you now have at least a better idea of where you are: draw a line of that length from the satellite, and it will just touch the surface of the earth somewhere on a circle. You're somewhere on that circle. To narrow things down more, you need another satellite and another circle. Now, those circles will intersect at two points. You could be at either. A third satellite is needed to figure out which of those points is your location. And if you don't know your own altitude, you need a fourth satellite.

That's what's needed for a full GPS position lock: four satellite signals acquired. It's more complicated than that, because your average (mortal) GPS receiver doesn't have an atomic clock—it's all figured with differences rather than with absolute positions—but you need four satellites to know where you are.But, we're told that Bell-chan is talking with "a certain GPS satellite." Why just one? Well, presumably she's not actually using it for navigation. It's pretty obvious that Bell-chan is more of a nature goddess than a techno-goddess (that would be Skuld's department). She's actually got their position from the birds and the bees, and the trees, and the leaves, and the mountain spirits (who probably have it all down to an inch).

What she says next is, "We're only five minutes behind!" She's learned from her "certain GPS satellite" what any one satellite would be able to tell her: the exact time. Which means that Bell-chan herself does not have an atomic clock, but she knows someone who does. Someone in high places. Someone singing a song she knows.

Mike O'Brien
(via e-mail)

P.S. I met Lester del Rey on several occasions back in the late 60s. What a character. I remember him diagnosing some poor SF pro's car troubles in a motel parking lot at a PgHLANGE convention in Pittsburgh. Got it diagnosed and running, too. I miss him.

Ah, Wikipedia, that source of all wisdom. Actually I like reading it myself, but sometimes I run across articles I feel I could improve on (the one on Studio Proteus particularly comes to mind; for example, when you read that they "would not publish shojo manga or 'how-to' books," this represents an important misunderstanding of how Studio Proteus works—mainly, that they were not a publisher). The problem is when you edit for a living, you're not sure you want to do it in your spare time, too ^_^

The sleepy demon very well could be a reference to Hieronymus Bosch, although his works are famously dense and detailed, and I hope it might be forgiven if I encourage those out there to seek the answer. The only Bosch I've seen personally is *The Wayfarer* at the Boijmansmuseum in Rotterdam, which also has Brueghel's *The Tower of Babel* (an influence on Katsuhiro Otomo).

This is a wonderful letter, Mr. O'Brien, but at what point should I mention that, just as Consolidated is not Fugazi, Dark Horse is not Del Rey? However, I do *know* Dallas Middaugh at Del Rey, so I will also pass this question along to him, in case he is reading

this at the moment. I also want him to know that I have been absorbing *Genshiken* in a particularly wholesome manner, checking it out from the Multnomah County Library. I'm currently one of 17 people with a hold on Vol. 8.

I agree that Aoshima's wavy-haired flunky looks distinctive enough to seem based on a real person, although I don't at the moment know who. The early volumes of *Oh My Goddess!* are especially full of in-jokes, but I was pleased to see that even in the recent Vols. 23 and 24, Mr. Fujishima still took the chance to give Yuko Miyamura a cameo.

Dear Enchantress (and yon editors!),

This month, during a much needed Christmas vacation, I had the good fortune of sitting back and enjoying not only one volume of *OMG!*, but two of them – thanks to the release of both Vol. 3 & Vol. 24—and being in a mood to mull over the series a little more, I thought I'd send a few thoughts your way on the 3rd volume. Now, this is the second time that I've read these stories, but I was just as impressed with them this time around, as I was the first time that I tore through the pages. In fact, I had actually forgotten that one of the more powerful scenes between Belldandy and Keiichi occurs in this volume and it seemed appropriate given that it's the beginning of a New Year that spurs it on.

Here, I speak of Keiichi's New Year's resolution to "get closer to Belldandy," and Urd's enthusiasm to take it upon herself to make sure that his promise came true. Stepping in to do her part (as only she can) I can only imagine the meticulous planning that went into a timely board game that saw each of its participants acting out the squares that they landed on, in the process of playing. We know that Urd manipulated the spinning, but what could have been her reason for making sure that Kei landed on a square that would put him out in the cold for an extended period of time? Twice at that? Well, Mr. Fujishima weaves a very funny tale as Urd attempts to have a little fun at everyone's expense, and with good intentions that her careful planning just might pay off for Kei (my wager, at least).

When finally Belldandy wins the game she runs to Keiichi's aid, worried that he's frozen after landing on the unlucky squares. Seizing him in her embrace she notices how blue his lips had become, and . . . plants her lips on his own so as to "warm them up." Now, is it just my imagination, or is this Belldandy's understated romantic side innocently showing up again? She did back him into a tree with her kiss after all! And it shouldn't go without mention that this powerful scene is a beaut, as rendered by Mr. Fujishima, and is well worth the price of admission alone. Anyhow, it's an excellent story that ends in the fulfillment of Keiichi's original resolution, with a little help from a friend, and I'm glad I had the chance to revisit it this time of year.

Again, my thanks to all involved for the endearing characters and stories, and keep up the great translation work on the editorial end. The detailed notes at the conclusion of the volume remain a highlight of the experience—and definitely aid in my study of the Japanese language and culture. Until next time...all the best,

Mr. Kathan D. McCallister
Fort Worth, Texas

P.S. I threw together a recreation of one moment in the climax of the story and attached it in the case that you would like some additional fan art. I was glad to see several additional examples in recent letter pages, and wanted to continue to try and contribute in some small part again if I could. Regardless if it sees print, or not, it was fun to do!

Mr. Kathan D. McCa l'ster

Mr. McCallister, of course, is making a return engagement to "Letters to the Enchantress" from Vol. 23, where his image of Urd appeared. Of course we're pleased to print some more! But now, things are really going to get graphic, as I was so pleased to get some *OMG!* fan art all the way from Greece, as Ms. Georgia Lata literally sent us her sketchbook! "It's not that good, because it's fairly old," she says, "but I wanted to share it with you."

Of course, Dark Horse is the company of Frank Miller's *300*, so we're all very pro-Greek around here, but the fighting vigor of the King Leonidas and his Spartans is as nothing compared to the epic journey Ms. Lata's package had to reach Milwaukie, OR. Look at those battle scars on the envelope . . . or the old-school ruled notebook cover (were these drawn in class? ^_^). Take inspiration from this burning fan spirit and send in your stuff (including complaints!) to "Letters to the Enchantress!" *Sun Belldandy kai cheira kinei.*

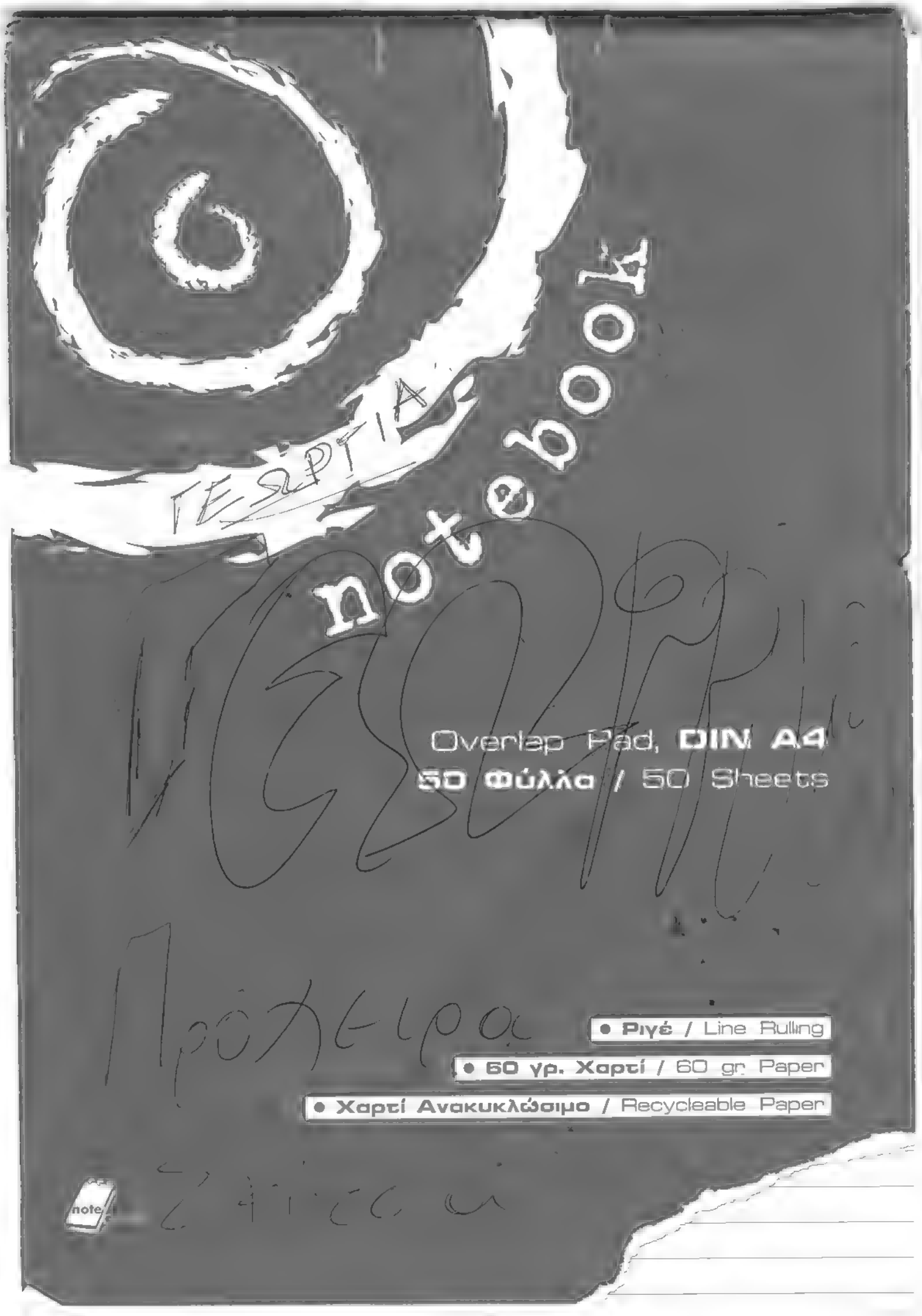
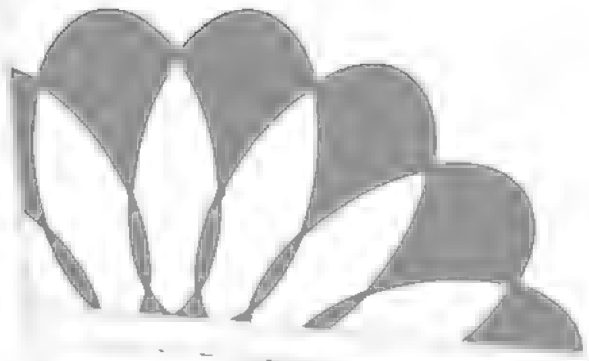


Exhibit "A," or *alpha*, if you will—the notebook cover. In high school mine would have had the Dead Kennedys logo, and maybe a drawing of Jigen.



Exhibits *beta* through *delta*—what my sister would call "misc.goddesses."

Exhibits *epsilon* through *eta*—at top left, Keiichi contemplates the size of his manliness. I can make these jokes because a.) I'm the editor, and b.) I'm jealous.

Exhibits *theta*—the envelope this all came in. From the country that brought you the marathon, this one's been through quite a trial itself! Thank you once again, Georgia!

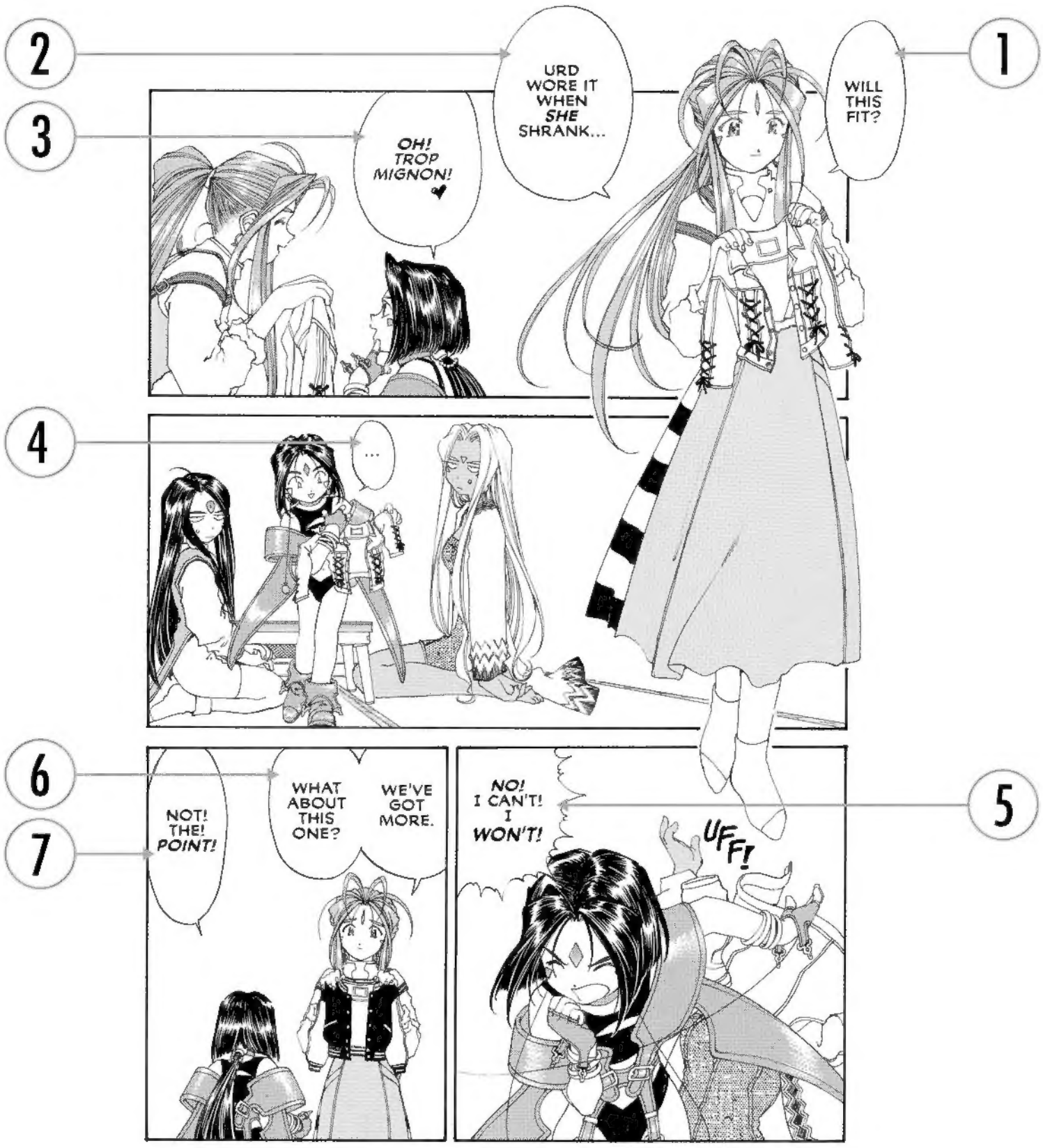
Creator Kosuke Fujishima in 1991!

His message to fans in the original Japanese *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 5:

"Mwa-ha-ha! I am Doctor F. Jesheema!! In order to realize my plans of taking of the warld (the world), I will modify this rabbit, and all will witness the unstoppable beast, Kaiju 7700i!! You should be afraid—shaking in your boots . . . Which is what I had originally conceptualized right here and got dressed up for it, but the cameraman basically threw in the towel on this scheme. To be honest, though, I had basically resigned this gimmick even earlier than he did (but guess what? I'm gonna give this same gimmick a crack the next time around!!)."

STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right-to-left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind. ^_^



MANGA/HUMOR

Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 5

WHEN BELLDANDY LEARNS that traditional Japanese custom dictates a woman make homemade chocolate for her love on Valentine's Day, she vows to make this a V-Day to remember. When troublemakers extraordinaire Urd and Mara toss themselves into the mix, it's instant *hot* chocolate; but not as hot as the situation Keiichi is in when the Third Goddess splashes into his life—Urd and Belldandy's "genius" of a younger sister, Skuld!

Dark Horse's most-requested classic manga is the inspiration for the new anime TV series! Bonus notes section, plus four pages of interior manga story in color—not available in the original English or Japanese edition!

DARK HORSE 20 YEARS
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